

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 218

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the police are doing enough to solve burglary cases in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL



Citizens participate in Freedom Walk to mark the 11th anniversary of 9/11.

► PAGE 2

ASIA



Filipino workers flee the civil war in Syria with tales of horror.

► PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



The boyfriend of Amanda Knox maintains the couple's innocence.

► PAGE 17

Retiree files class action lawsuit vs Fitial, Fund. **PAGE 3**
Oversight hearing on \$190M power deal. **PAGE 7**

Maratita sacked as committee chair

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and the rest of the House leadership removed Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan) as chairperson of the Committee on Education while she was conducting a panel meeting yesterday, in the wake of a court case that Maratita filed to stop Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and others from pursuing a secretive \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.



Maratita

See MARATITA on Page 4

IN IMPEACHMENT PANEL'S FIRST MEETING Leadership members want closed doors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four of the eight members of the House Special Committee on Impeachment aligned with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial want the panel's first meeting today to be held behind closed doors, but the minority bloc led by panel chair Joe De-

leon Guerrero (R-Saipan) is sticking to the published schedule and format wherein members of the public can watch and listen to the proceedings.

» **Chairman says meeting will proceed as announced**

Deleon Guerrero said the meeting as scheduled for 2pm today will proceed, and "it is open to the public until such time the members decide to go into an

See LEADERSHIP on Page 4



Tinian marks another military history

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Some 130 U.S. Marines in 12 amphibious tracked vehicles landed on Tinian's harbor yesterday afternoon with a platoon of Japanese troops on standby in a nearby ship for a bilateral military exercise, some 67 years after troops from these

two nations fought against each other on Tinian during World War II. Within hours after the amphibious landing, the historic North Field was once again transformed into a battleground with U.S. Marines trying to seize and control an airfield manned by "enemies."

At North Field, hundreds of shots were

See TINIAN on Page 4

A row of amphibious tracked vehicles or "amtracs" carrying U.S. Marines from ship to shore make their way to Tinian's North Field yesterday afternoon as part of a certification exercise, with a platoon from the Japanese Self-Defense Force waiting on a ship to support the "mission," some 67 years after troops from these two nations fought each other on Tinian during World War II.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tourists robbed; 2 men try to rob jewelry shop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two female Russian tourists were robbed in Garapan, while two masked men, including one armed with a gun, attempted to rob a jewelry shop in San Antonio, police said yesterday.

One Russian victim complained of pain in her left cheek after the suspect punched her twice in the Garapan robbery.

In that incident, a concerned citizen helped a police officer arrest the suspect, John M. Namauleg, an ex-convict who has a pending criminal case.

The 39-year-old Namauleg was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$25,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on

See TOURISTS on Page 4



BACK 2 SCHOOL DANCE PARTY

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net



SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS • Terms and conditions apply

Local

CNMI joins 11th commemoration of 9/11 attacks

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eleven years after the tragic terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the people of the CNMI were reminded not only to pay tribute to those who lost their lives since that “day that changed America” but also to remember messages of hope and strength that brought out the nation’s renewed commitment to freedom.

More than a hundred individuals consisting of law enforcement authorities, firefighters, and other emergency responders, students, government officials, and private citizens rallied Tuesday to mark the 11th anniversary of the attacks.

“President Bush said, ‘These acts shattered steel, but they



Students holding a “We Will Never Forget 9/11” banner lead over a hundred community members who took part last Tuesday in the Freedom Walk, which began at the Garapan Fishing Base and ended at the American Memorial Park where a ceremony was held. Other photo shows members of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Unit hold the flags of the 50 states as they participated in the Freedom Walk.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

cannot dent the steel of American resolve,” said Friend L. Walker, federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration in the Commonwealth, who served as keynote speaker at the 9/11 program held at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater following the walk.

Participants, some of whom were seen wearing yellow ribbons, arrived as early as 5pm at the Garapan Fishing Base where the walk started and proceeded south in honor of the thousands of lives lost when four hijacked passenger planes crashed into the World Trade Center Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

Walker, in his remarks, asked the audience for a moment of silence as he recounted the last few hours leading to the plane crash, urging them to imagine being in one of those four planes as the tragic events unfolded. He quoted Secretary of State Colin Powell when he said that the American spirit prevailed over the tragedy, adding that the U.S. emerged “stronger,” “more unified,” and “more determined” to live in freedom, repeating the words of New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Monday’s walk also paid homage to the CNMI service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to fight in foreign soils.

“Since 9/11, there are 16 men and women from the CNMI who served in the U.S. military and gave their lives,” said Walker. “None of us can understand why, unless we experience that loss also. The best that we can do is always humbly thank their family members for their service.”

The program, which opened with the posting of colors by officers of the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the singing of national anthems by Parker Yobei and CPA cadets, also featured a video presentation depicting iconic 9/11 photos, and concluded with a 21-gun salute by the DPS Tactical Response and Enforcement Team and the playing of taps by Dr. Edgar Tudor of VFW Post 3457.

Marvin K. Seman, CNMI Homeland Security special adviser, said following the program that the Commonwealth continues to support the commemoration of 9/11.

“It was a turning point in our nation,” Seman told *Saipan Tribune*. “I’m very grateful that everybody came out in the community and helped support this day by paying tribute to both the victims and our soldiers fighting for our freedom abroad. We take it for granted everyday but this is America and we stand for our freedom.”

Seman urged the community to “always remember, honor, and give respect” to all men and women in uniform, their families and friends. “They made the ultimate sacrifice, all to serve and protect our freedom.”

Participants were provided refreshments and giveaways after the walk and program.



HISTORIC JOINT MEETING SET TODAY

‘Gaps between NMC, PSS must be cleared’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two institutions of learning in the Commonwealth are set to meet today in a historic gathering at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center to both clear the gaps between them and tighten their collaboration for the benefit of all students.

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents and members of the State Board of Education will tackle for the first time together their separate strategic priorities and visions, and how each priority meshes with the other.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., described the meeting’s agenda today as “really all about the Commonwealth students” and how they will succeed in the future.

“It’s very critical that institutions of learning collaborate to ensure the success of every student. We always met with NMC [in the past] but in a different ca-

capacity. Tomorrow’s joint meeting of policymakers will look at how can we tighten up the gap [between us] and how can we ensure that there’s really alignment as soon as our students transition to college,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The commissioner described the two institutions’ relationship “as healthy,” but there is still room for improvement. “It’s always been healthy...but I think there are still some gaps that need to be tightened up and I think those gaps are about the transition of our students from high school [to NMC],” she said.

Sablan described herself as an advocate of the K-16 program, which is why she wants to see a “seamless transition” of PSS graduates to NMC. “Why do they need to wait in line when enrolling at NMC? That is one area we need to find out,” she said, adding that hundreds of students graduate from high

school each year and majority of them enroll at NMC.

According to her, support for college-career initiatives is important because NMC plays a great role in the CNMI’s workforce.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., said Monday that the joint meeting will address key issues and strategies that will advance the working relationship between these two boards and between the largest educational providers here in the CNMI.

PSS is the islands’ public educational institution that offers programs from kindergarten to high school while NMC is the only community college in the Commonwealth.

NMC offers, among other courses, a bachelor degree program for elementary education and certification for other courses such as special education and early intervention programs, which also benefit the school system.

Council eyes collaboration with govt agencies for Cultural Heritage Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will be working with government agencies to come up with a program in celebration of Cultural Heritage Month in October.

Arts in Program coordinator Parker Yobei said yesterday that the collaboration will make up for the Arts Council’s Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit, which will not be held this year due to lack of funds.

“We don’t have the budget to pay for the venue for this annual exhibit,” he explained.

The Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit is one of the three major exhibits hosted annually by the Arts

Council to help local artists promote their artwork and find suitable markets for their products. The other two are the Women’s Exhibit every March and the Christmas Exhibit in December.

Last year, the monthlong Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica exhibit was held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Yobei also pointed out that a number of artists will not be able to prepare and set up their artwork at the exhibit given their participation in the 25th Annual Guam Micronesia Island Fair, which will be held from Oct. 5 to 7 at the Ypao Beach Park in Tumon.

About 15 to 18 traditional and visual artists have ex-

pressed interest to represent the CNMI in Guam’s signature cultural event. The list of artists will be finalized after a meeting on Friday.

Yobei said they want to collaborate with the Indigenous Affairs Office, which spearheads the Cultural Heritage Month celebration, and the Public School System since schools on island host their own Cultural Week festivities every October.

He expressed optimism that the Arts Council will have enough funds to host all their exhibits after the National Endowment for the Arts reinstate their eligibility to apply for and receive grants from the largest funder of the arts in the U.S.

Retiree files class action lawsuit vs Fitial and the Fund

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two previously unnamed plaintiffs in a lawsuit against

Fitial objects to Hawaii attorney Plum as Fund's trustee *ad litem*

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial objects to the appointment of Hawaii attorney William J. Plum for the position of the NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem*.

Fitial and the CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, also stated that Betty Johnson, as a Fund adversary, should not select the person responsible for the Fund's legal positions.

Johnson used to be one of the two unnamed retirees suing Fitial and the Fund. The second amended complaint only named Johnson as the plaintiff.

Plum, former public auditor Michael Sablan, and attorney William Fitzgerald were mentioned Monday as among the top nominees for the position of Fund's trustee *ad litem*.

Assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel, as counsel for Fitial and the CNMI government, pointed out that Plum is not a Saipan resident and, although Johnson's counsel has indicated that he is willing to relocate to the CNMI, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood stated that such expenses would be borne by the Commonwealth.

"Considering the already distressed financial situation for the Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth government, such expenses would be an unnecessary burden," Patel said.

The government lawyer said strong financial experience is extremely important to the duties and powers of

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the NMI Retirement Fund amended her complaint yesterday to name herself as a lone plaintiff in a class action suit.

the Fund board.

"Although Mr. Plum has business litigation experience, he is not a certified financial professional," Patel said.

Johnson's counsels put Plum on top of their list as a potential trustee *ad litem*. They also named economist William H. Stewart and accountant Debbie Milks as potential trustees.

Fitial and the CNMI government, Patel said, believe it is inappropriate for Johnson to appoint the person who will direct the Fund's legal position related to this lawsuit.

She said the governor and the Senate usually select the trustees of the Fund board. Therefore, Patel said, the court should select a candidate proposed by her clients, which include Fitial.

As for former public auditor Sablan, Patel said they withdrew him as a candidate due to his previously scheduled off island trips.

On Fitzgerald, Patel said they are unaware of the lawyer's experience, if any, with financial matters.

Aside from Sablan, the other names submitted by Fitial and the CNMI government for the trustee *ad litem* post are former Commerce secretary Michael J. Ada and business development leader Eric Plinske.

Patel said the other additional candidates for trustee *ad litem* are businessman and former deputy secretary for hospital administration Joseph Cabrera Santos and certified public accountant Nhing Brillo Reyes.

Tydingco-Gatewood has yet to select the trustee *ad litem*.

Betty Johnson named as defendants Fitial, Fund trustees Adelina C. Roberto and Nacrina Barcinas, former Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, the CNMI government, Finance, the Fund, and the Fund board of trustees.

Johnson is suing them for breach of contract, violation of the U.S. and CNMI constitu-

'Impact of new pension reform law on the Fund still unknown'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day after the enactment of the CNMI Pension Reform Act of 2012, several concerns were aired by a concerned citizen who pointed out that the legislation was enacted without thorough review and cost-financial analysis to determine its impact on the already troubled pension program.

A retiree's son, Glen Hunter, enumerated the potential negative effects of the new law in his postings in the Commonwealth Retirees' website.

"The impacts this law will have on the NMRF are not truly known. This is due to the fact that no analysis has been provided and it appears that no fiscal impact studies were ever conducted," he said.

Hunter also described the measure as potentially danger-

ous because it allows the administration to escape mandated contributions to the Defined Benefit plan.

Hunter said the new law, which allows members to withdraw their contributions without separating from the government, compounds rather than reduces government obligations. He said there was no committee report issued when the law was still a bill and that it lacks any financial report or a cost-benefit analysis, including an actuarial report from the Fund.

The new law, also known as Public Law 17-82, mandates that within 30 days, the Fund pay out 25 percent of members' contributions plus interest to those who elect to withdraw from the DB plan. The remaining 75 percent will be paid out to the member within 90 days.

"Again, how much would

order the Fund and the CNMI government to collect Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's judgment, pay, or bring current all CNMI obligations to the Fund, and distribute appropriate retirement benefits.

Attorneys Margery S. Bronster, Bruce L. Jorgensen, and Stephen C. Woodruff are counsels for Johnson.

According to the lawyers,

that be if all 2,900 DB plan members who are still active employees withdraw their contributions plus interest?" asked Hunter.

The law also allows an employee to roll over their DB contributions to the Defined Contribution plan and become a member of that program. Hunter said the DB plan was never set up to be a savings plan but a retirement benefit plan.

"The DBP was never set up to be a savings plan. It was a mandated retirement benefit plan. Any withdrawals done prior to the payout of benefits should be either forcible rolled over into an IRA or 401K type plan or subject to fees and penalties," he said.

In the law's section 203 (a), it states that if a DB member does not pull out of the plan the government will be forced to pay both the DBP member contribu-

this class action arises out of the CNMI's breach of its contractual and constitutional obligations to provide government employees "membership in an employee retirement system" in which their accrued benefits...shall neither be diminished nor impaired."

At yesterday's hearing on the issue of Fund's trustee *ad litem*, the issue of federal equity receiver was also discussed. Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood directed the parties to file briefings about the issue.

tions and the Social Security taxes, resulting in higher expenses for the CNMI government.

"There is no way of knowing even a ballpark [figure] on how many will remain and how much that would require. This is simply magic in the form of smoke and mirrors to try and make it appear fiscally sound for budget purposes. It is not," said Hunter, adding that the new law actually increases the government's retirement obligations.

"Sadly, no financials are available to provide the insight needed to discuss these laws properly. That alone should be justification as to why the Legislature and the administration should have done proper due diligence before acting on these bills and before the governor signed them into law. That was not the case," added Hunter.

Hana Health Massage Suffering from back pain?

We can help!

\$15.00/hr

Full back massage with medicine

Oil Body Massage \$15.00/hour

Foot Massage \$15.00/hour

Acupuncture Cupping \$10.00

OPEN DAILY:

11am to 2am

1st Floor, MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa • Tel: 285-2010



Welcome to Saipan!
MUNAKATA & ASANO FAMILY
SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2012

PDi
PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INC.

Live The Fiesta Way!

Mon - Southeast Asia

Tue - Northeast Asia

Wed - European

Thu - Teppanyaki

Fri - Seafood

Sat - American & Mexican

Sun - Brunch



Mondays to Saturdays Buffet Lunch \$22 per person

Sunday Brunch \$30 per person

Children 4 to 11 years old half price

Open 11am to 2pm

For reservations please call

T- 233 6414 / 483-0462 / or 234-6414 ext. 1547 to 1548

TINIAN

From Page 1

fired, smoke grenades were thrown, and troops aimed for their targets. Then came helicopters to transport casualties.

Maj. Jonathan Bossie, officer-in-charge of training and adviser with Special Operations Training Group with the III Marine Expeditionary Force out of Okinawa, said "this [certification] exercise is to conduct an amphibious assault from the sea, in this case, to an airfield so we can seize the airfield and conduct airfield operations."

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and

CNMI historian Don Farrell said this training exercise puts Tinian on the world map again, this time by hosting joint military exercises.

Farrell said this training exercise, as with the recent MAG-12 operation, "will continue to build the image of Tinian as an excellent training site for all U.S. military forces."

"Adding the Japanese Self-Defense troops only heightens the exposure Tinian will get to other military organizations that need a place like Tinian to conduct training exercises," he added.

Marine Lance Cpl Mark Malloy, 21, said it's his first time to be in this side of the world, and he's "honored" to be

on such historic grounds, referring to the role Tinian played during World War II.

Tinian was the launching pad for the two atomic bombs that the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hastening the end of the war.

Major Yohei Ito, from the Japanese Self-Defense Force, said he and other troops from Japan visited memorials to honor those who died during the war.

"This is very impressive," he said. "Our grandfathers...they devoted their lives to this future of peace... Their devotion provided us this peace."

Ito, 35, was one of four Japanese military officials who set foot on Tinian as observers yesterday.



Two U.S. Marines position themselves near "rescue helicopters" during an "amphibious assault" to seize control of an airfield from "enemies" as part of a certification exercise yesterday on Tinian, where two-thirds of its lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Marines Maj. Jonathan Bossie, right, officer-in-charge of training and adviser with Special Operations Training Group-III Marine Expeditionary Force out of Okinawa, gestures as he talks to four observers from the Japanese Self-Defense Force led by Maj. Yohei Ito, second from right, on Tinian yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



LEADERSHIP

From Page 1

executive session."

"Every meeting as announced is open to the public," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He, however, said the letter from committee members from the leadership—vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan)—will be addressed today and will be part of the panel's discussion.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), one of the minority bloc members on the panel, said last night that "everything should be transparent."

"I don't understand why others want this behind closed doors. What's there to hide?" Dela Cruz asked.

The first of the panel's 12 meetings is at 2pm today in the House chamber on Capital Hill. The succeeding meetings every weekday will be held every 9am, up to Sept. 28.

Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) created the special committee to review and make a recommendation on the House minority bloc's resolution impeaching the governor for felony, cor-

ruption, and neglect of duty.

Of the eight members of the panel, four are with the minority bloc and four are with the leadership, which is aligned with Fitial.

In their two-page letter, the members of the House leadership said it is unfortunate that the Impeachment Committee chair scheduled the first meeting "prematurely and should not have been published."

"As chairman of the committee, we must remind you that you are but one of eight members assigned to this committee. After consultation with the undersigned members, it is clear that you scheduled the first meeting of the committee and generated an agenda for the meeting without consulting with the entire committee," the leadership members said.

Torres said yesterday this shows that there's already a "deadlock" even before the committee could formally convene.

Ogumoro, Torres, Fred Deleon Guerrero, and Palacios also told the Impeachment Committee chair that "to ensure clarity, participation and avoid needless confusion, [we] respectfully request that only committee members meet with the assigned legal counsel, in order to articulate and memorialize our Special Com-

mittee's Rules, as provided by Section V of your proposed agenda."

"This will ensure a timely and smooth process as we undertake the important task of the issue of impeachment," the leadership members said.

Dela Cruz said he couldn't say whether this is a delaying tactic by the House leadership, but he hopes the committee will get past this.

Today's first meeting of the Special Committee on Impeachment will tackle constitutional provisions on impeachment, applicable laws and regulations, establishment of special committee rules, confidentiality, guidelines, tie-breaking procedures and votes casting, among others.

House Resolution 17-111 lists 16 articles of impeachment for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

At least 14 "yes" votes are needed in the 20-member House to impeach the governor; at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate are needed to convict him.

So far, only eight House members have gone on the record to say they will vote "yes" to the resolution, seven of them co-authors.

This is the first time in CNMI history that a resolution impeaching the governor has been introduced.

He said a platoon or about 40 Japanese troops were on a ship. He said the Japanese platoon may not set foot on Tinian but remain on the ship, unless the mission calls for it.

Tinian's North Field has been closed to the general public since Monday because of the military exercise. North Field is one of Tinian's tourist attractions.

Some 65 U.S. Marines based in Okinawa arrived on Tinian Thursday night to prepare the training sites, followed yesterday by an additional 130

TOURISTS

From Page 1

Sept. 20 at 9am.

Police detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in his report that police officer Peter Aldan was heading north along Beach Road, Garapan on Monday at 7pm when he saw a man holding another, later identified as Namauleg, along the sidewalk near the Garapan Health Dispensary building.

Aldan noticed that while the man was hugging Namauleg from behind, two female Russian tourists were standing next to them. The officer noticed that the tourists appeared shocked, scared, and frightened.

When Aldan got down from the police car, the man's girlfriend approached and told him that Namauleg tried to rob the two Russians.

Namauleg and the concerned citizen were struggling as the suspect tried to get free.

Aldan handcuffed Namauleg's right hand, but the suspect kept struggling. The concerned citizen helped the officer handcuff Namauleg's left hand.

The victims later told police through a translator that they were strolling along the pathway when the suspect grabbed a purse from one of them.

During the struggle, Namauleg allegedly pushed one victim to the ground and punched her on the face twice.

That's when the concerned citizen came to their rescue, holding Namauleg until the police officer arrived.

The concerned citizen, a Chuukese male, was there to pick up his girlfriend at the parking lot of the Carolinian Ut.

Marines.

The joint exercises, dubbed Mariana Islands Complex Certification Exercise or Certex, was earlier described by the mayor as another "history in the making."

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Tinian mayor has been requesting the military to use their leased lands to help boost the island's economy.

Tinian, one of the main islands of the CNMI, had the busiest airstrip during the war.

When the Chuukese man's girlfriend saw Namauleg grabbing the bag from the tourists, she told her boyfriend to help the victims.

In the second case, a female employee of Jang's Jewelry Store in San Antonio was taken to the hospital for a swollen forehead and a laceration on her right leg after the suspects assaulted her.

The suspects in the foiled robbery of the jewelry store managed to escape, according to police officer Jason Tarkong.

Tarkong said that police officers responded to Jang's Jewelry Store on Tuesday at 12:30pm after receiving a report of a failed robbery attempt by two masked men.

Police investigation showed that a 59-year-old man and his 58-year-old wife were working at the store when two masked men entered the establishment.

One of the suspects who was armed with a handgun pointed the weapon at the male victim and shouted "Don't move!"

The second suspect, who was armed with a machete, stood guard. The female victim threw a table at the suspects, while her husband escaped and shouted for help.

One suspect hit the female victim in the face, causing her to fall. The suspects then fled on a white car that has a last digit of 6 or 8 on the license plate. They failed to get any money or items from the store.

The woman was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Tarkong said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the community's assistance for information on the attempted robbery.

MARATITA

From Page 1

Maratita is also one of the seven co-sponsors of a milestone resolution impeaching the governor.

"It's clearly an act of desperation and intimidation," Maratita told *Saipan Tribune*.

The House leadership is aligned with the governor.

"Pursuant to the request of the majority of the chairmen of the House Standing Committees, I am removing Rep. Janet U. Maratita as chair of the Committee on Education and appointing Rep. Ramon S. Basa as acting chair of the Committee on Education," Cabrera said in a one-page memo to Maratita.

Basa's committee is now racing against time to work with some senators in coming up with a "compromise" version of the \$114 million budget bill for fiscal year 2013 before the Sept. 30 deadline or the government will be forced to shut down.

Maratita said it was "ironic" that she was removed while she was conducting a meeting of the Committee on Education to address the last four bills referred to her panel.

"They fired me while I was doing my job. But I respect the speaker and the leadership's decision. I graciously accepted this appointment, and I graciously accepted their termination of me as committee chair. The speaker believes he's the rule. Let it be. And let the people judge his and the leadership's actions," Maratita added.

This is the second time during the 17th Legislature that there's been a change in the Education Committee chairmanship.

Last year, Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) resigned as panel chair amid drug charges against him following an arrest. Palacios remains a member of the House of Representatives but is not seeking re-election.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), a member of the House leadership, said the chairmanship was offered to Maratita last year on the premise that she will be aligned with the majority, only for the leadership to find out later on that she has aligned herself with the minority.

"With all due respect to Rep. Maratita, she's not with the leadership anymore so it's only fair that the leadership chooses somebody who is with them. It's about loyalty," Palacios said.

Sablan gives school principals flexibility in AC use

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students in public schools need not bear the morning heat inside classrooms because they are now allowed to turn on their air-conditioning units as early as 8am, depending on their needs.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., has issued a memorandum to school administrators, giving them the flexibility to determine the best time to switch on their schools' air-conditioning units.

Her decision to revise the 10am through 2pm aircon policy use was a result of her weeklong observation and vis-

its to campuses where many are experiencing an increase in class sizes.

"I've been out to schools myself and as early as 8:30am, I saw that our students are already sweating, especially in the elementary level. So I made the decision to give our schools the flexibility on the air-con use because we don't want our kids to suffer like that," she said yesterday.

The policy reducing the number of hours that air-conditioning units may be used in public schools and offices was first enforced in February this year.

The policy allows only four hours of air-con use, from

10am to 2pm for elementary schools and from 10am to 3pm for secondary schools.

The early dismissal of classes at the elementary level was also enforced, including shutting down power on weekends to save on utilities.

PSS saw savings of about 33 percent in utility costs since this policy was implemented.

Four hours

Despite the new flexibility in air-con use, Sablan stressed that everybody is still limited to only four hours each day. Until she sees a clear budget direction for PSS in the new

fiscal year, Sablan said the "four-hour policy" will strictly be enforced and observed.

"If they need to turn on their ACs as early as 8am, they can go ahead but they're mindful about the conservation of four hours. And until I hear what we're going to get for [fiscal year] 2013, changing this [energy] conservation policy is really impossible," she said.

At Garapan Elementary School, principal Paulette Sablan said they decided to split the AC use from 8am to 10am and from 11:30am to 1:30pm each day. The new schedule will begin today. She de-

scribed the 1.5-hour interval in air-con use as manageable, along with the 30-minute period before the class is dismissed at 2pm. GES has two AC units each at its 31 classrooms, 10 units at the school's administrative offices, and six units at the cafeteria.

At Koblerville Elementary School, principal Rizalina Purugganan said that AC use will be from 8am through 12pm every day. The new schedule was recommended by teachers and parents who were consulted about the issue. The school is home to 427 students this school year.

Purugganan said the classrooms' concrete roofs and ceilings contribute to the hot temperature in the morning,

hence the need to provide a cooler environment for students.

At Hopwood Junior High School, principal Jonas Barcinas said a new schedule is still being finalized but they are also considering using their air-con units early and switching them off during lunch breaks. Because the campus is home to 1,200 students, Barcinas said they plan to procure more electric fans for crowded classrooms.

PSS, under the budget allocation for fiscal year 2012, is provided only \$30 million, of which \$28 million will be used to pay for personnel costs while \$2 million will go to operations and all others, including utilities.

Marine sports operators: Tasi Tours exerting 'political pressure' on DPL

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five marine sports operators are wondering why the Department of Public Lands finds it necessary to file pleadings supporting Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc.'s motion that asks the Superior Court to reconsider its ruling on the bond requirement.

"DPL is using government resources for this improper purpose, and the motion should be summarily denied," according to attorney Mark A. Scoggins, counsel for the five marine sports operators.

At no time does DPL provide any argument that it is adversely impacted by the injunction order, said Scoggins yesterday in the marine sports operators' opposition to DPL's pleadings.

Scoggins said that DPL only asserts Tasi Tours' interests, arguing that Tasi Tours, a private company able to speak for itself, is "effectively unsecured."

The lawyer said there is no reason beyond the "political pressure" exerted by Tasi Tours against DPL for DPL to bring this motion.

"DPL has no interest in ensuring there is a secured bond in place to protect a private company such as Tasi Tours," Scoggins said.

The motion, Scoggins said, is a waste of resources and that no further hearings or inquiry is needed.

DPL recently filed a memorandum supporting Tasi Tours' motion that asks the court to reconsider its ruling that allowed the five marine sports operators to post a \$60,172.95 in unsecured bond on top of the \$1,861.05 that they had already posted as bond requirement in connection with their lawsuit against DPL.

Assistant attorney general Michael Wilt, counsel for DPL, asserts that the court's order is internally inconsistent and leaves Tasi Tours, a con-

cessionaire of DPL, effectively unsecured.

"Clarification is necessary to the DPL because the DPL is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the rights of Tasi Tours, made pursuant to their concession agreement with the DPL," the government lawyer said.

Earlier, Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, requested clarification of Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho's Aug. 22, 2012, order regarding the bond for preliminary injunction.

Kosack said that Camacho issued a preliminary injunction without giving the security for the payment of all the damages that might be suffered by Tasi Tours—contrary to the Rules of Civil Procedure.

In response to Tasi Tours' motions for reconsideration and clarification, Scoggins stated that the filing of the motions is part of Tasi Tours' strategy to litigate them to death.

Last Aug. 23, the five marine sports operators resumed their business operations after complying with Camacho's bond requirement order.

The operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—signed an acknowledgment of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

The preliminary injunction that Camacho issued last July 19 granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

The operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011, and June 14, 2012, pertaining to Managaha access. The "rule" prohibits marine sports operators from picking up customers on Managaha Island for their tours unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

BACK 2 SCHOOL
DANCE PARTY

IT&E
Life in Motion

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2012

5PM-9PM @ GIG DISCOTHEQUE

FANTASTIC RAFFLE PRIZES - FREE PHONES* GIVEAWAY FROM IT&E

FUN NIGHT OF DANCE MUSIC
ENTRY FEE \$5 PER PERSON

POWER 99 FM
SAIPAN, CNMI

GIG DISCOTHEQUE

SALBA
www.salba.com

COOPERLINE
www.cooperline.com

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Street Rice

MEGAbyte
www.mega-byte.com

I LOVE SAIPAN

McDonald's

Coca-Cola

KFC

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

W
Walton's Theaters

TAPO SHOPPING

Everblue

TONY ROMA'S
FAMOUS FOR RIBS

CAPRICORN
Pasta & Pizza

facebook
facebook.com/ITE.CNMI

twitter
@670and671

PSS, BOE officially open Garapan's new classrooms, fence

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the CNMI State Board of Education and officials of the Public School System led the formal opening yesterday of the newly built classrooms and fence at Garapan Elementary School.

GES principal Paulette Sablan said the new classrooms and concrete fence are a shining example of what can be achieved when elected officials, PSS leadership, administrators, teachers, and parents come together for a common cause.

PSS, with the assistance of the Legislature that enacted Public Law 15-33, was able to build the two-storey building inside the campus with five brand new classrooms.

The project costs over \$800,000, sourced from both government appropriation and the interest from PSS' general obligation bond. It was designed and constructed by Tanaguchi Ruth & Maiko Architects.

The concrete fence cost \$154,000 using PSS' general obligation bond. It was built by DKK.

Sablan said the five new classrooms now allow the school to serve its more than 870 students inside the campus, unlike before when it used the vacant subsidized houses at the back of GES.



Education officials led by Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., right, and members of the CNMI Legislature and Board of Education join Garapan Elementary School students and teachers in opening their new classrooms and concrete fence yesterday.

to accommodate its kindergarten students.

Being in the business and tourist hub, the school's new concrete fence is aesthetically pleasing and provides more safety and visibility for GES

students, staff, and parents.

BOE chair Marylou S. Ada described the improvements at GES as a show of the board and PSS leadership's continuous dedication to "Students First." She said the board looks

forward to more investments in children's education.

According to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., the new classrooms will benefit some 120 students. She said over 100 kindergarteners now hold classes at the school's Building A.

Sixth grader Jasmine William said the newly built fence and classrooms brought excitement and inspiration to GES students.

"I feel more safe and secure now...and it's really nice," she said. William was among the students who joined the

ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new fence.

Also in attendance during yesterday's rites were former members of the 15th Legislature and members and officers of the GES Parents' Teachers Association led by president Dave Attao.

Plans move forward for veterans' cemeteries on Tinian and Rota

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The director of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office said they are moving forward with a plan to give both Tinian and Rota their own veterans' cemeteries.

Ben Camacho disclosed at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday that their office already began the process of applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which would allow them to build the cemeteries for the two islands.

Camacho justified the need for

the "rural burial cemetery" grant to construct two more veterans' cemeteries, citing the challenges of a veteran's family from Tinian or Rota in holding the burial for their loved one on Saipan.

According to Camacho, island culture and tradition influences families to come together and become "very unified" when there is a death among any of the members.

Since there is no veterans' cemetery on either Tinian or Rota, laying to rest a family member on Saipan at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi would be "too expensive."

"Imagine trying to fly folks

from Rota and Tinian out here to attend a funeral. It's nearly impossible because it's too expensive," he emphasized.

By having a veterans' cemetery on Tinian and Rota, Camacho said their office would be able to help families since attending a funeral or visiting the graves of their loved ones would be more convenient.

"I'm pushing and pursuing this for Rota and Tinian," he said.

Additionally, Camacho noted that there is still plenty of work to be done at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. He is optimistic that plans for the cemetery would materialize in the near future.

Fitial certifies 7 over-the-cap salaries

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the over-the-cap salaries of four doctors and one pharmacist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and two assistant attorneys general at the Office of the Attorney General between Aug. 8 and Aug. 28.

The governor is required by law to report salaries that are over \$50,000 a year.

The governor certified the \$240,000 per annum salary of Dr. Roger S. Rodenhuis, an anesthesiologist at CHC.

Fitial also granted certification

to the \$165,000 per annum salaries of Dr. Gary G. Ramsey and Dr. Liane Mary Mizgala, both obstetrician/gynecologist, at CHC.

Dr. Ji Woon Kim, a gastroenterologist at CHC, was also certified to receive an annual salary of \$135,000.

The governor also certified the \$90,000 a year salary of Kimberly Ellen Runge, a pharmacist at CHC.

The governor certified the \$64,000 annual salary of assistant attorney general Thomas J. Schweiger and the \$54,000

a year salary of assistant attorney general Renee Callan, both working at the OAG.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at \$50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

The governor is also mandated to advise the Civil Service Commission of any move to grant over-the-cap salaries. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on Friday, September 14, 2012, from 10:30am – 2:00pm at the Caladium Hall, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Kagman III.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – June 07, 2012
- V. GUEST SPEAKER
 - a. Karen Tydingco, Federal Disability Examiner, Region XI, Center for Disability
- VI. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Executive Director Employment Contract
 - b. Review & Approval of Proposed FY 2013 Budget
- VII. REPORT
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Status of 2012 – 2016 State Plan Amendment Submission
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. 2013 Summer Camp (A DD Tri-Agency Effort)
 - b. Status of Call-A-Ride Service Contract
 - c. Office of Transit Authority Public Transportation Update
 - d. New Council Membership Orientation
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. MISCELLANEOUS
- XII. NEXT MEETING
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

House panel to hold oversight hearing on \$190M power deal

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications will hold a joint oversight hearing on the secretive \$190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement as early as next week.

JGO chair Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said Tuesday they are hoping to start calling in Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials next week as part of the oversight hearing.

The oversight hearing follows the submission of documents to both the JGO and PUTC panels by CUC, the Office of the Attor-

ney General, the Office of the Governor, and the Office of the Lt. Governor.

"We'll ask CUC about the substance of the contract and the analysis made on this agreement," Demapan told reporters.

But he said his committee does not want to be in conflict with the schedules set by the budget conference committee.

"To me, passing a budget on time to prevent a government shutdown should be a priority right now. That's why we're trying to work around the schedules of the budget committee. We don't want to be in conflict with their schedule, but we're hoping to start the oversight hearing next week," he added.

Unbeknownst to many, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former at-

torney general Edward T. Buckingham signed off on a 25-year

power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC on Aug. 3.

SDLLC got a no-bid deal to build, operate, and sell power to

CUC for 25 years.

This power purchase agreement is one of the subjects of an ongoing impeachment against Fitial.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fitial to appear on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012, Marianas Agupa will feature Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to talk about abuse issues surrounding the accusations of wrongdoing and to explain his side to the people of the Commonwealth. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM; the governor will be on air by 10am. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the

show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use *Marianas Agupa's* Facebook account via instant messaging).

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola and Tinian, correspondent David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

MHS Class of '93 sets

reunion meeting today

The Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting today, Sept. 13, 2012, starting at 6pm at Naked Fish. For more information, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Jocelyn Camacho Seman at 287-0546. (PR)

Financial Aid Family Night in Koblerville

The College Access Challenge Grant will be hosting a "Financial Aid Family Night" at

the Koblerville Youth Learning Center on Sept. 18, 2012, at 5pm. The community will learn more about tuition assistance and how to fill out the forms. (PR)

MHS Class of '83 sets meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join their general meeting this Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, at the Beach Road pavilion, Garapan, 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)

Aqua Walk set for Sept. 15

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Walking Association and IT&E are inviting the community to take part in the Aqua Walk on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Free registration starts at 6:30am for the walk, which will commence at the Aquarius Beach Tower beachfront. Special Aqua Walk shirts will be given to participants until supplies last.

"This is a unique walking event because we do it in the water," MWA board member Hiroko Tajima said yesterday.

Tajima noted, however, that those who want to walk but do not like to do so in the water can still participate by walking along the beachside.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association recently confirmed its participation in the walk, said Tajima.

"We're expecting about 50 to 100 participants for the walk, and they would include our members, IT&E employees and

their families," she told *Saipan Tribune*.


MWA has been hosting the Aqua Walk for about a decade now, said Tajima. In the last three or four years, the walk has become a collaboration between the walking group and the telecommunications company.

Aqua Walk is usually scheduled every July. This year, though, it had to be moved to September because of the tides.


"If it's too high, it would be very difficult to walk in the water," explained.

Aqua Walk is one of the six walks that MWA organizes annually. The others are the Valentine Walk in February, Sophia Walk in May, Foundation Walk in August, Turkey Walk in November, and the Christmas Walk coordinated with the Marianas Visitors Authority every December.

For more information, call Tajima at 287-8780, Bea Quitugua at 285-1694 or Hiroko Tenorio at 483-0614.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS**
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



Head Start Policy Council

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Friday, September 14, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Quorum
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes:
 - a. July 27, 2012 (Special Meeting)
 - b. August 23, 2012 (Regular Meeting)
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Communication**
 1. From the State Board of Education
 2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports**
 1. Director
 2. Managers
 3. Interim Finance Director
 4. HPC Standing Committees
 5. Center Representatives
- V. Old Business**
Updates:
 1. SY 2011-2012 Program Information Report (PIR)
 2. Supplemental Grant Application for T & TA
 3. SY 2012-2013 Transportation Waiver
 4. SY 2012-2013 Staff Qualification Waiver/Staff Progress
- VI. New Business**
 1. Review Of Draft SY 2012-2013 Written Service Area Plans
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VIII. Executive Session**
- IX. Next Meeting**
- X. Adjournment**

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Annie Santos at (670) 664-3751/3761 or email address at ana.santos@cnmipss.org; several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinson F. Sablan
Chairperson

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for

ITS Corporation (ITS H.E. Rental)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Denny Jin is proposing to operate a Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Repair, General with storage and office spaces. This proposal will be located on Chalan Pale Arnold (middle road) next to Quartermaster Road, on Track #22703-8. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. Property owner is Mr. Jose C. Ayuyu.

Date: September 20, 2012, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, September 19, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for

Tia's Child Care & Tutoring Services

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Salome R. Limes is proposing to operate a Day Care center in Kagman III on lot 011-G-607. This area is zoned as Village Residential. Applicant is the property owner.

Date: September 20, 2012, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, September 19, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of July 12, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. Tia's Child Care & Tutoring Services (#2011-4240): Ms. Salome R. Limes is proposing to operate a Day Care center in Kagman III on lot 011-G-607. This area is zoned as Village Residential. Applicant is the property owner.
2. ITS Corporation/ ITS H.E. Rental (#2011-4347): Mr. Denny Jin is proposing to operate a Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Repair, General with storage and office spaces. This proposal will be located on Chalan Pale Arnold (middle road) next to Quartermaster Road, on Track #22703-8. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. Property owner is Mr. Jose C. Ayuyu.
3. Blue Continent Communication (#2011-4488): Ms. Rosemond B. Santos is proposing to install a 75 ft. high communication tower/ antenna in the Papago area on Track #22763. This area is zoned as Rural. Property owner is Ms. Maria B. Santos.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
2. Update on the proposed local bill for Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Businesses (Pokers)

E. New Business

1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Rota students join 9/11 commemorations

The students caucus from Hawaii, Guam, Rota (CNMI), and Japan took time to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and reflect on the impact that day have had on their lives.

These historical events are the inspiration behind the R.I.S.E (Responsibility Increases Student Excellence) program campaign, launched by the Pacific Regional Training Institute's student caucus. The student caucus of Hawaii, Japan, Guam, and Rota chose one of their prevention and awareness programs to sponsor the campaign to remember the victims and heroes who died during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

For the school on Rota, the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja student caucus commemorated 9/11, the event they were too young to remember, by saying a silent prayer for the victims and heroes who perished during the terrorist attacks.

"This national event has reminded us, that we cannot take anything for granted," said PRTI director Capt. Edward Maratita Jr. "This is important for the school children to know and understand the events and be aware of how they are shaping the nation and the region."

"Even though many of these children weren't alive when 9/11 occurred, it's important that we acknowledge it as a school and tell the children about it because it's a pivotal time in our nation and our com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja pose for a souvenir photo in commemoration of 9/11. From left, Junice Masga, Marjorie Banaag, Loreville Clitar, Tyra Reese Calvo, Angelica Lucero, Metka Mendiola, Jonelle Toskas, Joshua Puerto, Marnecia Hocog, and Angelo Lucero.

munity. It's an important lesson as we prepare students for life in the real world. The goal was to honor those who lost their lives 11 years ago, but at the same time to inspire hope for the future," Maratita said.

According to PRTI Region Commander Col. Jon Takamura, "Yes, this is a national tragedy, where families and friends died. We are here to support them and to support our country at a time of great need."

"Many children have parents, aunts, and uncles, or other family members who serve in the U.S. military. We have more parents and even teachers who are deploying and knowing that they're going to help en-

sure that no one else gets hurt is one way to help the students understand what is going on and make sense of the world around them," added Takamura.

The ESFDB student caucus also joined other students in Hawaii, Japan, and Guam in their R.I.S.E. for Philippines campaign. The campaign is to solicit donations for the flood victims in the Philippines.

Monetary, canned goods, and clothing donations were accepted to help with the relief efforts for our *kababayans* suffering from this unfortunate tragedy. The campaign was similar to the R.I.S.E. for Japan in an effort to help the tsunami victims caused by the March 11, 2011,

earthquake.

"I really want to help the people of my home country, the Philippines. I felt like I had to help," said ESFDB 7th grade student Loreville Clitar.

"I helped because it's the right thing to do," added ESFDB 7th grade student Marnecia Hocog.

The PRTI management, staff, and student caucus continue to assess the needs of its members and their neighbors and will continue to provide aid to those in need.

The PRTI and students of the caucus would like to extend their appreciation to all those that helped the R.I.S.E. program in their campaign efforts. (SFC Ford T. Ebesugawa)

Congress marks 9/11 in remembrance rite

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate gather on the East Steps of the U.S. Capitol to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedies.



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) joined Members of Congress on the steps of the U.S. Capitol yesterday to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"As we pause to reflect on the Sept. 11 tragedies, we remember the innocent lives lost at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on United flight 93 that crashed into a field near

Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We also honor the heroism of the first responders who risked their lives to rescue and recover those caught in the wreckage. I continue to pray for the families and loved ones of the victims and all those who gave their lives selflessly," said Bordallo. "Although it has been more than a decade, the images of that fateful day remain ingrained in our memories. I was serving as

the acting governor at the time, and I will never forget the late night phone call I received from the Office of Civil Defense informing me of the shocking news. The Guam Police Department and Airport Authority Officials helped secure our island and our Guam National Guardsmen provided increased security at our airport terminals. The tragic events of 9/11 changed life as we knew it, and

our nation has remained resolute in ensuring that our country never again experiences another terrorist attack.

"On this day, we also honor the service and sacrifice of all servicemembers who have fought, and continue to fight, in defense of our freedom. These brave men and women are helping to keep our nation secure, and we must continue to support them as they return home." (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 13, 1999

DPL board clears way for Tinian airport expansion

The Division of Public Lands has approved a conditional conveyance of certain U.S. military land to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for the planned expansion of West Tinian Airport. According to CPA, more than 5.2 million square meters of land to given to CPA will include areas on which the existing West Tinian Airport terminal and runway are now situated and the additional land needed for the new runway project. The ports authority had requested from DPL the conveyance of land as it anticipates the return of a certain parcel of land to the CNMI for the U.S. military. In return, CPA has agreed to grant the use of the airport and landing rights to the U.S. military.

Proposed wildlife conservation area on Tinian axed

Due to a technicality, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has thumbed down a plan by the Tinian municipality to designate some areas on the island a protected enclave for wildlife and other natural resources. He said the Legislature must amend existing laws restricting local legislative delegation from encroaching into functions of the central government before Tinian can establish such a wildlife conservation area. The governor noted that changes should be made to Public Law 10-57 that gives exclusive control to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife to regulate these functions as well to a constitutional provision governing powers of local legislators.

Sept. 13, 2000

House leadership defends session amid storm

The House leadership has shrugged off a complaint aired by one of the members over its recent decision to conduct session at the height of tropical storm Saomai last week. Rep. Diego T. Benavente criticized the holding of the session last Thursday despite what he claimed as dangers to the safety of the House members and their staff. Although Saoami was downgraded from a typhoon to a tropical storm after it weakened upon closest approach to the islands, government offices were closed for two days in anticipation of strong winds and heavy rains.

BOE asks Senate to revisit education act

The State Board of Education has prodded the Senate to review the board's input on a legislation that seeks to overhaul the public education sector. In a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona, BOE members and the Public School System raised concerns that the House Committee on Education cleared the initiative without accepting suggestions made by BOE and PSS. This, after the House Committee on Education earlier solicited the public education sector's comments to the proposed changes under the education act. BOE chair Frances H. Diaz and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos have expressed opposition to a provision designating the Department of Public Works as overseer of construction and major renovation work at public and school facilities.

Sept. 13, 2001

Torres snubs Fund's call for meeting

Those expecting a fiery exchange between former Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres and the Fund's board of trustees during yesterday's special meeting got disappointed, with Torres a no-show and the board deferring plans to discuss his performance. After failing to acquire a majority vote of four, board members also agreed not to go into an executive session to talk about the lawsuit that Torres filed against the board for sacking him. Despite the presence of Torres's legal counsel, Michael Dotts, only board member Tomas Saures insisted on pushing through with an evaluation of the former Administrator's performance. The rest of the board agreed with the motion of board member Charles P. Reyes to defer the evaluation.

Internet slow after terror attacks

Internet traffic slowed and major news websites were jammed Tuesday as people craving details on the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks flooded online. In contrast, electronic mail was a godsend for many people frustrated by clogged telephone voice circuits. The Internet search engine Google directed news seekers to radio and television. "Many online news services are not available, because of extremely high demand," a statement read on the popular site's home page. Television broadcasts did not appear to promote their websites as heavily as they normally do during breaking news.

Only 30 slots still available for NMC Climb Higher Summit

Only 30 slots remain for the Northern Marianas College's free Climb Higher Summit on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, which is an event designed to help those in the community who are usually struggling to balance jobs, budgets, and parenting to advance their professional careers by earning a college degree.

These individuals are often called "non-traditional students" because they do not fit the traditional model of students between the ages of 18 to 22 and usually attending college right after high school.

"Today, there are many more students that are considered

"non-traditional" students who are enrolling in college," according to NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D. "These students are usually older, have delayed enrolling in college because they entered the workforce right after high school, have full or part-time jobs, or are juggling other obligations like caring for children."

At the Climb Higher Summit, non-traditional students will be provided with the information they need to earn their degrees through the availability of flexible class schedules, more financial aid options, and other resources that are specifically

designed for individuals who are trying to balance work, family, and personal commitments.

The event will also be filled with information like finding money to pay for college, degree and short-term non degree program offerings (like grant writing, dental assistant training, medical billing and coding, and more), and the admissions process.

"Earning a degree has never

been more important than now," said Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services. "High school graduation is no longer a sufficient path leading to a good paying job. More and more jobs are requiring college degrees now."

"There's no doubt a college degree can lead to higher salaries, more job prospects, better opportunities for promotions, and more marketable job skills,"

Pangelinan added. "In fact, according to national statistics, the average earning for those with a bachelor's degree is \$45,000, while the average was \$30,000 for those with a high school diploma or its equivalent."

Registration is free and ongoing, but currently only 30 seats remain, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible by visiting www.nmc-net.edu or by calling Raynard Travilla at 234-5498 Ext. 1502, 1503, or 1504.

The Climb Higher Summit will be held from 8am to 12pm on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

This event is made possible through financial support from the College Access Challenge Grant Program. (NMC)

Hochiki to introduce fire alarm product line

An official of the Hochiki America Corp. will be conducting a presentation on Hochiki's FireNET fire alarm equipment and product line at the Pacific Islands Club on Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, according to the G4S Security Systems yesterday.

Hochiki America is a leading, worldwide fire alarm systems company. Wayne Oliver, Pacific regional manager, will conduct a presentation that will include information and details on hotel and resort applications, high-rise condominium applications, and successful applications of the FireNET systems on unique projects.

In July 2012, Hochiki Amer-

ica and G4S Security Systems formed a strategic partner alliance, resulting in G4S becoming a distributor of Hochiki's product line in the CNMI and Guam.

Because of several resort fires that claimed many lives around the world, the leading members of Japan's insurance industry founded the Hochiki Corp. in 1918. The Hochiki Corp. undertook design, manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of fire alarm systems and produced in excess of 3.5 million units each year.

Limited seating is available. For more information, e-mail Tony Gomez at tony.gomez@gu.g4s.com. (G4S)



CLUB 200 SPONSORSHIP

Delta Air Lines is once again a premiere corporate sponsor for the American Red Cross's 24th annual Club 200, its largest fundraising event of the year. From right to left, Chris Concepcion and Esther Sound, inside sales representatives of Delta Air Lines, take a photo with John Hirsh, executive director; J.D. Tenorio, emergency services director; and Kennedy Benjamin, health and safety manager, of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, Wednesday, Sept. 12, at the Saipan International Airport.

ARC STAFF



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Painter

Qualifications: Must have minimum of 2 years work experience. High School diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates ability to perform the job. Knowledge in the use of hand and paint sprayers. Is able to mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired color and consistencies. Job requires attention to detail and thorough in completing work tasks.

(1) Bartender

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are required. Must be people oriented and have good customer service skills.

(2) A/C Refrigeration Mechanic

Qualifications: Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have High School diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates ability to perform the job.

(5) Guest Relations Agent -

Qualifications: Must have minimum of 3 years work experience as Guest Relations Agent, preferably in a hotel. Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills are essential. The ability to speak and write in a foreign language (Korean, Japanese, Chinese or Russian) will be a plus. Must be able to work a variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays. Requires frequent walking and lifting.

(2) Guest Relations Agent - China Market

Qualifications: Must be able to communicate both oral and written in Chinese and English. Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. High School diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform the job.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be submitted to HR office no later than September 21, 2012. Application forms may be picked up from Fiesta Resort's security office on the South Wing.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified Women, Minorities, veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



P.O. Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

(1) BAKER

Qualifications: Must be of high school graduate or equivalent and must have at least 2 to 3 years work experience as a baker.

Duties: Prepares bread, rolls, muffins, and biscuits according to recipe. Checks production schedule to determine variety and quantity of goods to bake. Measures ingredients, using measuring cups and spoons. Mixes ingredients to form dough into loaves or desired shapes. Places shaped dough in greased or floured pans. Spreads or sprinkles topping, such as jelly, cinnamon, and poppy seeds on specialties. Places pans of dough in proof box to rise. Inserts pans of raised dough in oven to bake, using peeler. Adjust drafts or thermostatic controls to regulate oven temperature. Removes baked goods from oven and places goods on cooling rack. Make bake pies, cookies, cakes, desserts and other pastries. Other related duties as required.

(1) ASSISTANT SOUS CHEF

Qualifications: Must be of a college graduate or equivalent and must have at least 4 to 5 years work experience as a supervisor.

Duties: Assist the Sous Chef by supervising and coordinating activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking food stuff. Observes workers engaged in preparing, portioning and garnishing foods to ensure that methods of cooking and garnishing foods to ensure that size of portions are prescribed. Gives instructions to cooking personnel in fine points of cooking. Cooks and carves meats and prepare dishes such as sauces, during rush periods and for banquet and other social functions. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absences of Sous Chef.

(1) Events/Banquet Coordinator

Qualifications: Must be of college graduate and have at least 5 years experience as an event and banquet coordinator.

Duties: Monitor event activities to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and laws, satisfaction of participants, and resolution of any problems that arise. Confer with staff at a chosen event site to coordinate details. Inspect event facilities to ensure that they conform to customer requirements. Coordinate services for events, such as accommodation and transportation for participants, facilities, catering, signage, displays, special needs requirements, printing and event security. Consult with customers to determine objectives and requirements for events such as meetings, conferences, and conventions. Meet with sponsors and organizing committees to plan scope and format of events, to establish and monitor budgets, or to review administrative procedures and event progress. Review event bills for accuracy, and approve payment. Evaluate and select providers of services according to customer requirements. Arrange the availability of audio-visual equipment, transportation, displays, and other event needs. Plan and develop programs, agendas, budgets, and services according to customer requirements. Reports regularly to the General or Resident Manager of progress and other work assignment. Responsible for Social Media in all areas of advertising, such as newspaper and website. Must work directly with the customer in all areas of Food and Beverage Sales and must be able to negotiate contracts.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than September 18, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort, is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 218Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Beijing is proving to be its own worst enemy

China has long been at odds with many of its neighbors over various islands in the South China Sea. A few months ago, Chinese and Philippine naval vessels entered a tense standoff over the disputed Scarborough Shoal. In March, China detained Vietnamese it accused of fishing illegally near the Paracel Islands, which it occupies over the protests of other countries in the area.

This summer, Beijing announced it would install troops on one of the Spratly Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam. Oh, and China has been quarreling noisily with Japan over islands in the East China Sea.

The general problem arises from Beijing's growing assertiveness in the area, and its urge to restore what it sees as its historic sovereignty. Its neighbors, however, read history differently, and they regard China with a mix of age-old hostility and new concern about its rising power. The presence of oil and other valuable resources has raised the stakes.

But the disagreements have implications beyond the locals. As the dominant naval power in the Pacific and the world, the United States has an interest in preserving that position as well as maintaining unrestricted navigation in the region. It sees such freedom as crucial to worldwide trade, much of which is borne on merchant vessels. It also has ties with many of the countries currently at odds with Beijing, which see Washington as a vital counterweight to their giant neighbor.

These clashes are one reason the Obama administration announced a "pivot to Asia" earlier this year, which included the deployment of Marines to Australia. The goal is to provide support for friends as well as facilitate peaceful settlement of disagreements.

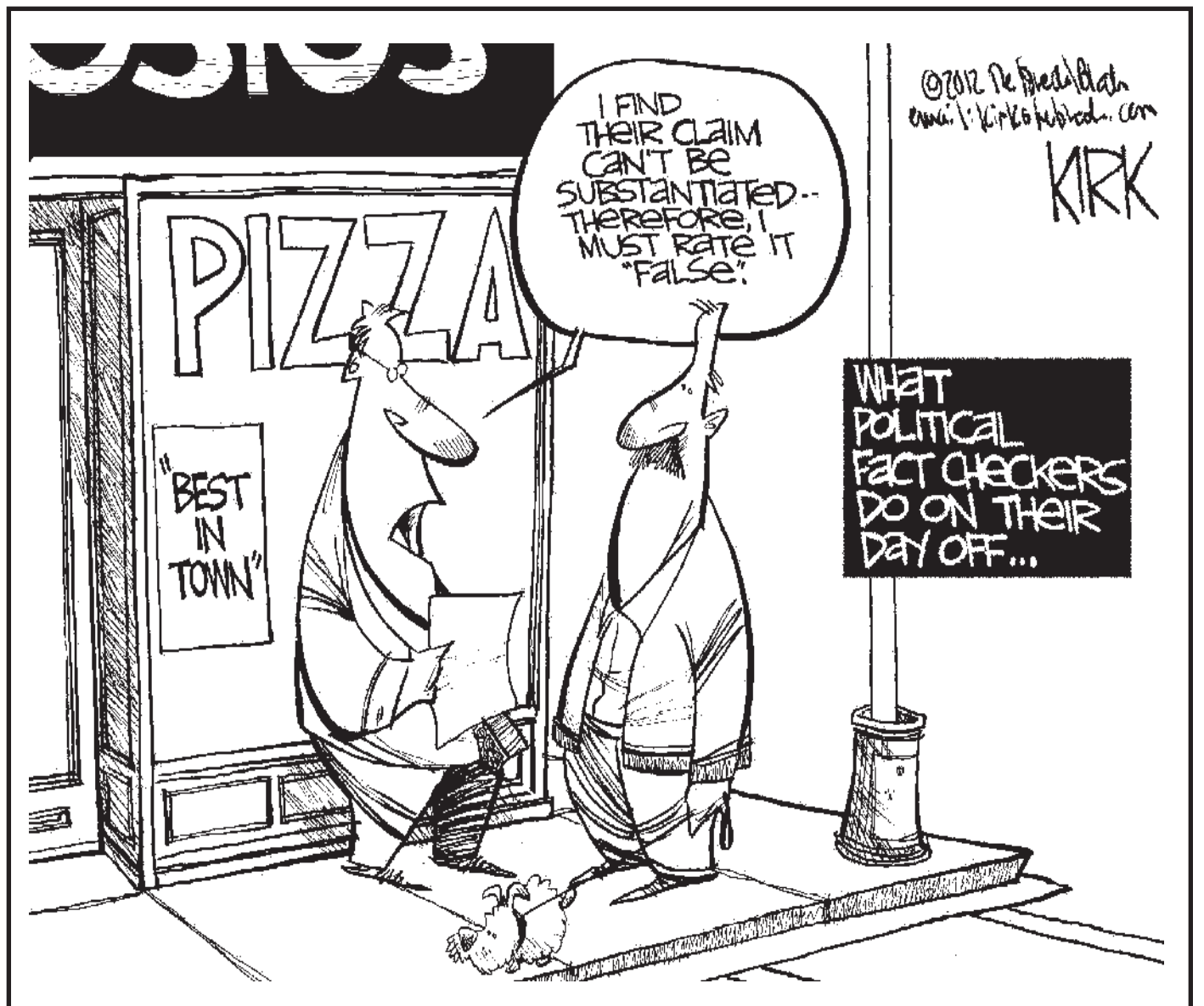
But the shift has evoked anger from the Chinese, who advise that the U.S. gracefully accept its inevitable decline. They insist the disputes should be resolved strictly by those countries that are "directly concerned," which pointedly excludes America.

With its overbearing manner, though, China has done an excellent job of frustrating its own goals. The more it throws its weight around, the more its neighbors are motivated to coalesce in self-protection—and to seek shelter in the arms of the U.S., whose military capabilities dwarf those of China.

Over the years, the Americans have had their share of differences with Vietnam and the Philippines, among others. But these nations know Washington can be trusted more than Beijing because it has no territorial ambitions in the region. Its chief interests—free navigation and nonviolent settlement of disagreements—align well with theirs.

Many people in the Chinese government and military think the U.S. is essentially hostile and determined to prevent China from gaining its rightful place in the Pacific and the world. But in many ways, China is proving to be its own worst enemy.

©2012 Chicago Tribune



Fresh thinking warranted on the Middle East

War drums are beating in the Middle East once again. A surgical strike by Israel, the United States or both on Iran's nuclear reactors will only delay but not prevent the Islamic Republic from eventually acquiring such capability.

The debate over the proper response to Iran's nuclear drive has entailed two distinct short-term policies: sanctions and negotiations and military strike, and one long-term policy of containment, which has been rejected by the American and Israeli governments. Each policy has its supporters and opponents, but the question remains—what would happen in the not-too-distant future if other countries such as Egypt or Saudi Arabia, in addition to Iran, also attempt to embark on a nuclear path? Would those countries become the next targets for military action?

Two long-term alternatives to the current escalating tensions between Israel and Iran ought to be considered, so war is avoided and a nuclear arms race is prevented. The first alternative would make Israel a member of NATO, protected by the "one-for-all, all-for-one" policy of the 28-member alliance, leading to a new security architecture that would deter Iran and guarantee Israel's long-term survival.

The second would be an agreement to transform the Middle East into a nuclear-free-zone. This December, the Non Proliferation Treaty conference, supported by 189 countries, will meet in Finland to discuss this issue.

Injecting the alliance's reach into the Middle East could provide it with a renewed sense of mission in the post-Cold War environment, especially as the NATO combat presence in Afghanistan is about to draw down in two years.

However, there are several obstacles to an Israeli membership: Turkey, Israel's estranged ally, the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Israel's own identity as a self-reliant power.

Israeli-Turkish relations deteriorated significantly after the Gaza flotilla incident in May 2010. In all likelihood, Turkey will veto Israel's accession (all existing members of the alliance must approve the admission of a new member). However, re-engagement with Turkey is a vital Israeli national interest as well as a NATO interest.

Perhaps Israeli membership in NATO could become part of the "reconciliation package" between the two countries. A possible incentive for Turkey is to link resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute to the accession process. Turkey, which regards itself as a champion of the Palestinian cause, could be offered a special role to restart the derailed Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Failure to

By YEHUDA LUKACS
MCT Information Services

Yehuda Lukacs is associate provost for international programs and director of the Center for Global Education, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.



make real progress in this issue will likely result in resumption of large-scale violence in the occupied territories, a development dreaded by most Israelis and could spell a serious overload to the overstretched Israeli Defense Forces.

Ironically, Israel could prove to be the staunchest opponent of its own NATO membership. Israel's national ethos espouses self-reliance and the motto "never again" is ingrained in the nation's collective psyche. The notion that the international community is taking responsibility for the country's security and survival might be difficult for Israelis to swallow, especially if the Palestinian question is also linked to Israeli membership in NATO. But as long as the Palestine issue remains unresolved, the survival of Israel as a Jewish state will continue to be challenged as is the case now with Iran.

The second option, would transform the Middle East to a nuclear-free-zone. Such a proposal was endorsed numerous times by the U.N. General Assembly, and President Obama regards this issue as a component of his vision of a nuclear-free world.

Israel, the only country in the region with a nuclear arsenal, has developed over the years a formidable capability, including submarine-based cruise missiles carrying nuclear warheads—considered as Israel's second-strike capability.

Israel, however, having never admitted publicly it possesses nuclear bombs, objects to the idea of a nuclear-free-zone. Nuclear weapons have always been regarded by Israel as an ultimate trump card and a guarantee of its survival. But a close scrutiny of the Jewish state's long-term interests indicates that a nuclearized Middle East is a serious threat to the country's own longevity. Israel must realize it cannot maintain a nuclear monopoly forever.

There are no quick-fix, short-term solutions to nuclearization of the region. Israeli membership in NATO or the establishment of a nuclear-free-zone are types of a long-term structural solution to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East that policymakers should seriously consider as the foundations of a new security system in the most volatile region of the world.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The painful politics of gas

If you listen to complaining campaigners, you'd think President Obama was the guy outside the service station with that long pole who changes gas prices on the sign. The reality is that no president can do much to impact energy prices in the short term. But, that's not convenient to say in an election year sound bite.

The highest gas prices in history were in 2008 when the nationwide average reached \$4.11 per gallon, when President Bush was in office. That record still holds. The current nationwide average is around \$3.82 per gallon. Yet, in 2008 when candidate Obama gave his convention speech, he rightly didn't criticize President Bush for high gas prices. Gov. Mitt Romney scolded the incumbent for allowing gas prices to increase on his watch. I suppose that's politics.

What can be done by our White House in the short term amounts primarily to one thing: using our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The president used it last year (in cooperation with many other nations) and gas prices decreased—although only for a short time. The reserve,

however, really is for the direst circumstances. While using it is at the discretion of presidents, historically they've been reluctant to do so.

Presidents can, and have, tried to address gas and other energy prices through longer-term policies. Obama, for example, sought to end excessive speculation in energy and other markets by limiting the large positions any trader may hold. That law will start to be implemented in October. He also called for increased penalties for those manipulators, and an end to tax breaks for oil companies who have made record profits. His energy policy will—long after he is out of office—cut by half the amount we all pay for fuel by requiring more efficient vehicles (54 miles-per-gallon by 2025).

Plus, his energy policy promotes other fuel sources (wind, bio-based products, solar, hydro and clean coal to name a few). To some extent, that's already working. We have become over 70 percent self-sufficient in energy in the United States. In fact, for the first time since 1949 we (for the last two years) have exported more oil and fuel products than we have imported.

true incompetents with nothing to show during the time they have been our representatives, like himself. But then again, according to Lang, they are the do-nothing 17th Legislature.

At least the minority bloc differs and can be content. Fitial said he still respects the minority bloc and will continue to work with them and the rest of the Legislature even though none of them have done anything to contribute to their precincts and the whole CNMI such as lowering utility rates and improving services at the hospital during their terms. What a blow to the Legislature! Way below the belt but that's okay, who's wearing one anyways. LOL!

It seems like you're the only thinking and functioning representative of the people, yet we make you sad because no one understands your motivations and actions. Now everyone else is at fault except you! Try getting over your failed arrogant schemes because none of them ever succeeded in the years you have been governor anyway. The only success you have accomplished so far—and please end it there—are the allegations being brought against you in the impeachment resolution. It must have been well worth the massage, whatever kind it was. LOL!

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Empty words

What an odd letter the governor wrote in response to the impeachment accusations! We have four crises that must be solved in 90 days, it says. Where does that come from? Ninety days from now brings us to the second week of December. So? What is so significant about that? The shortages of staff, of supplies, of quorums is here, now, today. Was here yesterday, last week, last month. And has been here, in fact, for quite some time. It could have been solved years ago—after all, he's been in office for six years. So what's with the 90 days? Besides, the budget is due not in 90 days, but in less than 20!

And the solutions? Wait 45 days for an evaluation of CHC. As though one needed a study to discover that funding is inadequate, that planning is not in place, that the infrastructure is inadequate—nay, that informed, appropriate, effective administration is totally lacking. Why, for example, haven't the private clinics been called upon to provide support and assistance to CHC? How about establishing a local CNMI Medical Association, and among other things, cooperatively agreeing—at the very least—to help cover CHC's emergency room in times of need?

For the Retirement Fund there aren't any: "Resolution of the long-term debt of current retiree benefits will be difficult and will require give and take to balance revenues and costs and this is the next step....I am hopeful that the initial steps of extension of federal programs [Social Security] and voluntary withdrawal will allow us to reduce the outstanding liabilities and identify an acceptable compromise."

For CUC: Rely on the Guam military buildup—which is still a only a plan on paper—which will support a ship repair facility on Saipan, which will require a new power plant, which has already been contracted for, for 20 years no less (!), at enormous cost to the CNMI.

For revenue generation: empty promises. "We are in discussion with" airline services to provide direct service from China; "we are in discussion with" investors for renovation and expansion of is-

By BART CHILTON

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Bart Chilton is a commissioner on the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the author of Ponzimonium: How Scam Artists Are Ripping Off America. Readers may write to him at: CFTC, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20581; website: www.cftc.gov.



The tricky thing with gas prices is that the longer-view policies take time to go forward, and reaching political agreement is evasive on something that doesn't have an instant impact and that can't be touted in the next election. That's why it is just easier for some to blame a president ... even when it is exceedingly incorrect.

land hotels. But wasn't the governor also once "in discussion with" investors for manufacture of peanut butter, for leather goods, and who know what else? Whatever happened to those promises? What makes these any different?

Someone up there knows how to put words together. But no one up there seems to know how (or care) to resolve the problems. That's why he needs to be replaced. The sooner the better.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Still outrageous!

Tinian, I said it once and I'll say it again. It's really not about the person being appointed. It's about the money literally being thrown away for *what*?! So that we can have another commissioner do nothing but sit and collect over a 100K (with benefits) to do more than *nothing*? Yes, TCGCC needs a quorum to function. But let's step back and think about the last year since it hasn't had a quorum: two commissioners collecting an obscene amount of money to do absolutely nothing while essential programs and services are driven to the ground while the people of Tinian collectively suffer because there isn't enough money to go around.

This is not about the people who are commissioners or appointees to the position. This is about the big picture and the Tinian Delegation's inability to pass a real budget that is reflective of what the people of Tinian need and have been clamoring for. This is about passing a budget that adjusts the salaries of the commission to reflect the current economic situation that the island of Tinian currently finds itself in. We simply cannot afford to pay people an *outrageous* amount of money to have a meeting to do nothing. It is time for our legislative delegation to take a hard look at where it is we are at and where it is we need to go. What little resource that we have must be invested in not just a select few but the betterment of all.

Tinian, at the end of the day, it's really not up to them. It's up to us. If they don't want to do it, let's do it for them. Vote each and every one of them out of office this November. Vote for someone who has the sense to do right by the people by doing what is right for the people.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
San Jose, Tinian

CPI report

While I appreciate the article acknowledging the work and contribution of the Department of Commerce Rota, it is appropriate to concurrently acknowledge the strong support of Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola, Mayor of Rota, in our success. I would be remiss if I fail to include and recognize the support provided by Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao of Rota, and Director Manuel Atalig, DPS, Rota. Their generosity was timely in light of our bare-bones resources. Together, we were able to form a dedicated "For Rota" team, and saw the successful collection of 2011 and part of 2012 CPI data.

Now that the report is finally out, we encourage the community, including our elected leaders, to make intelligent use of the information contained in the report.

Eusebio A. Hocog
via email

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just for laughs

For someone who didn't do anything wrong and is the only one doing something for the people, maybe it would be best to do nothing at all. That would be the first step in helping the community and the biggest help of all. Do-nothing is popular in the CNMI's leadership than something that is not right; do not even respond to the allegations because your response, defense, and statements are insulting to everyone, politicians and community members both! Imagine if the numbers did not support impeachment, his next comment would be, "I told you, Saipan is just like Rota and Tinian," while he laughs!

It is too late to urge the public and lawmakers to focus instead on saving the pension system, healthcare, utilities services, and expanding revenue-generating industries. In the first place they are all under your control through emergency declarations and they were all ruined by you and your misunderstood motivations.

Secondly, how did you save the pension system by signing HB17-315? Stating that it is problematic or that you signed it with reservations does not help at all. It is a law now so keep your reservations to yourself.

Finally, the public never promised to do your job. As I recall, you promised us a peanut butter factory, shoe factory, several other revenue generating ideas and Better Times. At least fulfill half of your motto and be thankful for your lieutenant who always steps up to the plate to make things better for you every time you run away to your off-island lobster dinner adventures. What a legacy!

So it was shocking? The prefired impeachment resolution? Where have you been? Oh, off-island again. Well, the CNMI's current problems are not as important as the RNC and the Labor Day picnic that needed attending.

The people were shocked when we discussed the media coverage of the airport escort fiasco, especially after the local comments were translated. Then there was shock again after reading about the 25-year \$190 million power purchase agreement that he and Bucki the fugitive from justice signed. I guess to celebrate with his friends on his last day as the CNMI attorney general before transitioning to the extreme opposite. No wonder he quit, he always bragged about seeing no corruption with this administration. I guess affixing your signature on a million-dollar-plus document made the difference this time.

Be mindful that every time this administration makes the news the community is shocked. The only time relief was felt was probably when the other one was shocked. LOL!

If errors are made, then people must be held accountable, the governor said. I suppose those who circumvent the process by saying, "It is a politically driven investigation right before an important election that will divide our community and distract us from focusing on trying to solve the critical issues" to avoid getting caught should be disregarded.

These critical issues all arose because of your gross negligence. It is quite clear that you are the only one trying to distract us by shifting the blame to the legislative branch. The House leadership should be insulted at the statement that they are aligned with the governor—that means they are just as corrupt. How sad. Now, we all know the 17th Legislature supports this governor even though he clearly states that their charges are frivolous and that they are the

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

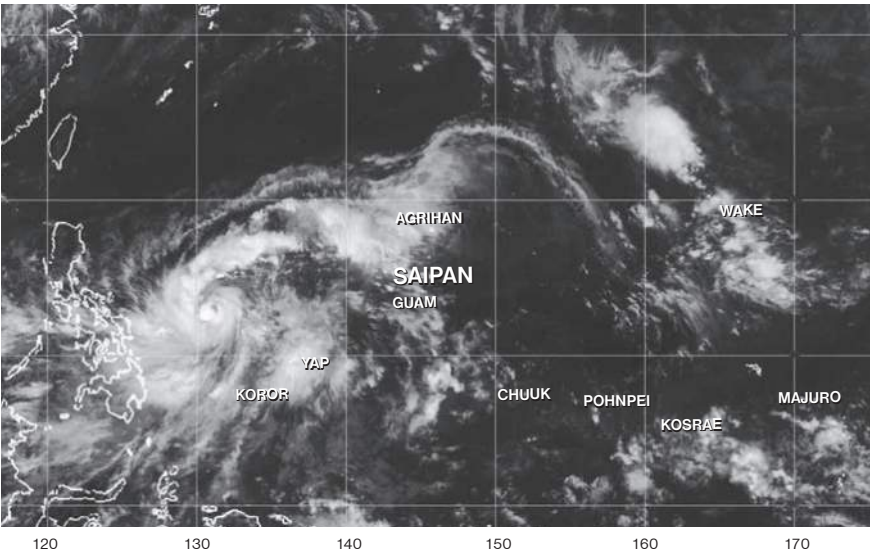
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼46
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼54
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼74
London	Parrrly Cloudy	▲66 ▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
New York	Sunny	▲80 ▼60
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼49
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼73
Rome	Showers	▲71 ▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲89 ▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70 ▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲72 ▼65
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼75
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲82 ▼62

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sanba (17W) is centered 435 miles north-northwest of Koror at 13N132E moving northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are found near the center west of a line from 14N133E to 10N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 150 miles of a line from 14N131E to 18N137E to 19N145E and between 14N and 6N from 136E to 142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are west of a line from 10N133E to 3N133E. For more information on Tropical Storm Sanba, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGWT and issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Low-level convergence is causing widely-scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the southern Mariana Islands between 14N and 5N from 144E to 149E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae, Butaritari and Tarawa within 200 miles of a line from 3N159E to 3N180E. A surface trough near Wake Island is triggering scattered showers between 14N and 20N from 164E to 171E. Another surface trough north of Wake Island is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of a line from 22N164E to 25N157E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:09 AM	4:01 PM
Friday	4:03 AM	4:45 PM
Saturday	4:57 AM	5:29 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:50 AM	6:59 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 11, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Now what? 11 things to do with your old iPhone

NEW YORK (AP)—In case you haven't heard by now, Apple is unveiling its latest iPhone on Wednesday. That leaves the question: What should you do with your old one?

The new phones will join some 244 million iPhones sold since the first one launched in 2007. Some have been lost or stolen. Some of us are still hanging on to our old gadgets in some futile attempt to resist the constant upgrade cycle that technology companies are forcing on us.

But it's fair to say that millions of iPhones are languishing in desk drawers or gathering dust. Here are a few things to do with yours to keep it from meeting that fate once you buy the iPhone 5.

1. Give it to your kids so they stop taking yours...

Every parent, aunt and uncle knows that no toy in the history of toys has ever been as appealing to a kid as an iPhone. They are shiny, they have games and grown-ups use them for important things. More importantly, they are either off-limits or doled out in limited quantities as a reward for, say, sitting still for a minute. Load up your old iPhone with games and give it to a deserving child in your life.

2. ...or to your mom so she can finally see the light

Alternately, if a Luddite adult has been thinking of taking the plunge into the world of smartphones, your old iPhone may help him or her get over the hump. If you have an iPhone 4 or 4S, you might also find someone who's still hanging on to an earlier model and give them the gift of an upgrade. You may just buy a friend for life (or at least until iPhone 6 comes out).

3. Use it as a teeny-tiny iPad

You'll be able to watch videos, send email and search Wikipedia for random facts to end cocktail-party disagreements with your decommissioned iPhone - as long as you have a Wi-Fi connection. There's even a camera, which means you can avoid being that guy (or gal) at

the concert who's turning heads for taking photos with an iPad.

4. Donate to charity

Several charities accept old phones for donation, though it's worth remembering that these groups likely won't physically give your old phones to people in need. Rather, they work with phone recyclers and sell your donated phones to them.

A nonprofit group called Cell Phones for Soldiers will take your "gently used" phone and sell it to recycling company ReCellular. It will then use the proceeds to buy calling cards for soldiers.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence works with another recycling group in a similar manner. About 60 percent of the phones it collects are refurbished and resold. The money goes toward supporting the coalition. The remaining 40 percent of the phones are recycled, according to the group's website. It pays for shipping if you are mailing three or more phones.

There are a few more suggestions from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8818.html>.

5. Alarm Clock

Do you still use that old radio alarm you bought for your college dorm room in the 20th century? Join the 21st century by turning your old iPhone into an alarm clock. Hide it in a different spot in your bed each night for an added challenge.

6. Sell, sell, sell!

Join the eBay hordes and sell your phone for a few hundred bucks if you can. There will likely be a flood of the gadgets soon after people start getting their new phones, so it might make sense to wait a little.

A company called Gazelle, meanwhile, will make an offer for your old phone based on its condition, your phone carrier and other information. A 32 gigabyte iPhone 4S on Verizon Wireless, for example, was recently going for \$237 if it's in good condition and \$90 if it's broken.

Glyde.com also offers to help you resell your old phone. A re-

cent check showed the above 4S getting roughly \$325 to \$350 after fees are deducted - provided there is a buyer. A "speed sale" that guarantees to sell it in seven days will get the seller slightly less money.

7. Trade in at GameStop

The video game retailer offers cash or store credit for old iPhones (along with iPods and iPads). The service is only available in stores and not online. A 32 gigabyte iPhone 4S on Verizon will get you up to \$335 in store credit or up to \$268 in cash.

8. Stream music

Stick that baby in a speaker dock, spring for a Pandora subscription (\$36 per year) or Spotify (\$10 per month) and bam, you have a stereo.

Or try SoundCloud. Although it's meant to let you create and share music with people, it's also a good place to listen to DJs you like or discover new ones. TuneIn, meanwhile, will let you listen to online radio stations playing music, sports, news or talk shows.

9. Keep as a backup in case you lose your fancy new one.

Nearly one-third of cellphone owners have had their gadgets lost or stolen, according to a recent survey from Pew Internet & American Life Project.

10. Use as a camera

At its core, a decommissioned iPhone is a hard drive with a camera. Snap photos with it. No Canon needed. You can also use the iPhone to move photos and other files from one computer to another.

11. Recycle with Apple

Apple Inc.'s own recycling program will give you an Apple gift card if it is determined to have a "monetary value." A 32 gigabyte iPhone 4S with some light scratches but in good working condition was recently estimated at \$280. That's higher than Gazelle, but you'll have to spend the money at Apple. The company also accepts broken phones for recycling but you won't get any money for them.

Nation

Smaller memorials on 11th anniversary of 9/11

NEW YORK (AP)—There were still the tearful messages to loved ones, clutches of photos and flowers, and moments of silence. But 11 years after Sept. 11, Americans appeared to enter a new, scaled-back chapter of collective mourning for the worst terror attack in U.S. history.

Crowds gathered, as always, at the World Trade Center site in New York, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania memorial Tuesday to mourn the nearly 3,000 victims of the 2001 terror attacks, reciting their names and remembering with music, tolling bells and prayer. But they came in fewer numbers, ceremonies were less elaborate and some cities canceled their remembrances altogether. A year after the milestone 10th anniversary, some said the memorials may have reached an emotional turning point.

"It's human nature, so people move on," said Wanda Ortiz, of New York City, whose husband, Emilio Ortiz, was killed in the trade center's north tower, leaving behind her and their 5-month-old twin daughters. "My concern



AP
Scott Willens, who joined the United States Army three days after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, pauses by the South Pool of the World Trade Center Memorial during the 11th anniversary observance, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012 in New York.

now is ... how I keep the memory of my husband alive."

It was also a year when politicians largely took a back seat to grieving families; no elected officials spoke at all at New York's 3 1/2-hour ceremony. President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney pulled negative campaign ads and avoided rallies, with the president laying a wreath at the Pentagon ceremony and visiting wounded soldiers at a Maryland hospital. And beyond the victims of the 2001 attacks, attention was paid to

the wars that followed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Middletown, N.J., a bedroom community that lost 37 residents in the attacks, town officials laid a wreath at the entrance to the park in a small, silent ceremony. Last year, 3,700 people attended a remembrance with speeches, music and names read.

"This year," said Deputy Mayor Stephen Massell, "I think less is more."

Some worried that moving on would mean Sept. 11 will fade from memory.

Chicago teacher strike poses test for unions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The massive teachers' strike in Chicago offers a high-profile test for the nation's teachers' unions, which have seen their political influence threatened as a growing reform movement seeks to improve ailing public schools.

The reforms include expanding charter schools, getting private companies involved with failing schools and linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

Union leaders are taking a major stand on teacher evaluations, one of the key issues in the Chicago dispute. If they

lose there, it could have ripple effects around the country.

The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association—the nation's two largest teachers' unions—have been playing defense in jurisdictions around the country as Republicans and Democrats alike seek greater concessions in a bid to improve ailing public schools.

After decades of growth in membership and influence, the unions now are in a weaker position, said Rick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

"They are playing on more hostile terrain and they are facing opponents the likes of which they have not had to face before," Hess said.

The strike also has implications for the presidential race because it pits the Chicago Teachers Union—the AFT's oldest local—against Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former chief of staff to President Barack Obama. Obama is counting on the strong support of unions to help his reelection campaign, but his administration has sided with some of the reforms unions are railing against.



ACROSS THE NATION

Storms cause flooding in Nev., Southern Calif.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Intense thunderstorms drenched parts of the Southwest on Tuesday, delaying flights and stranding motorists in the Las Vegas area and flooding two mobile home parks in Southern California. East of downtown Las Vegas, television news video showed yellow school buses inching slowly along swamped roads in some neighbors and muddy brown water up to the lower window sills of stucco homes in others. A Twitter photo showed dozens of cars submerged in water up to their headlights in a parking lot outside a University of Nevada, Las Vegas sports

arena. The National Weather Service issued severe thunderstorm and flash-flood warnings before and after almost an inch of rain was reported at McCarran International Airport just before 2 p.m.

Salton Sea fingered as culprit of big Calif. stink

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—After a day of "odor surveillance" and other scent-based sleuthing, Southern California air quality investigators confirmed Tuesday what they had already expected—that a pungent, rotten-egg aroma that stretched across the region came from the Salton Sea. Investigators from the South

Coast Air Quality Management District collected air samples, modeled weather patterns and measured hydrogen sulfide levels to determine that Monday's stench came from a fish die-off at the saltwater lake 150 miles southeast of Los Angeles, combined with clouds and wind from a huge complex of thunderstorms. "We now have solid evidence that points to the Salton Sea as the source of a very large and unusual odor event," AQMD Executive Officer Barry Wallerstein said in a statement. Wallerstein said the agency sent technicians trained to gauge the severity of smells across the agency's four-county jurisdiction, where they conducted "odor surveillance."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Zuckerberg says Facebook has overcome hurdles

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg hasn't enjoyed watching his company's stock price plunge this summer, but he is relishing the opportunity prove his critics on Wall Street wrong. "I would rather be in a cycle where people underestimate us," Zuckerberg said Tuesday. "I think it gives us the latitude to go out and make some big bets." Zuckerberg, 28, spoke to a standing-room-only audience at a tech conference in San Francisco in his first interview since Facebook Inc.'s rocky initial public offering in May. The social networking leader's stock has lost nearly half its value since the IPO, lopping more than \$50 billion from Facebook's market value. Zuckerberg said the drop "has obviously been disappointing," but he said it's a great time to "double down" on the company's future.

Premiums for family health plans hit \$15,745

WASHINGTON (AP)—Annual premiums for job-based family health insurance went up just 4 percent this year, but that's no comfort with the price tag approaching \$16,000 and rising more than twice as fast as wages. The annual survey released Tuesday by two major research groups served as a glaring reminder that the nation's problem of unaffordable medical care is anything but solved. Premiums for a family plan are averaging \$15,745, with employees paying more than \$4,300 of that. And lower wage workers are paying more for skimpy coverage than their counterparts at upscale firms. Overall, "it's historically a very moderate increase in premiums," said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which conducted the survey with the Health Research & Educational Trust.

Asia

Filipinos flee war in Syria with tales of horror

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipino Ruth Pana remembered the windows of her employer's house in Damascus riddled with bullets. The maid, who escaped first to the Philippine Embassy in the Syrian capital and then to Manila aboard an evacuation flight, also remembered one of the sons of her Syrian employer being killed by government forces.

"His chest was opened like there was large steel that passed through it," she said, sobbing. "Do you know that we buried him at the back of the house because there were no more cemeteries?"

Pana was among nearly 300 Filipino workers—young women who escaped unemployment at home for jobs abroad as maids and babysitters—who fled the worsening civil war in the biggest single repatriation negotiated between the Philippines and Syria. They were flown to Manila on Tuesday by the International Organization of Migration and brought with them the tales of horror and sleepless nights as violence between government forces and rebels fighting to overthrow the regime of President Bashar Assad spiraled out of control.

Pana, 29, said the man she worked for was supportive of



AP
Overseas Filipino worker Joanne Bulaybulay, who fled the civil war in Syria, cries upon arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport via a chartered flight by the International Organization for Migration on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, in Manila, Philippines.

the opposition and his son was killed during a recent demonstration. After the family's house where she lived and worked was shattered by bullets, they all fled to a neighbor's basement to escape being caught in the crossfire between government troops and the rebel Free Syrian forces.

She said she liked her employer and had worked for him and his family for three years

until 2010, and then returned just months before the fighting erupted in March 2011.

Pana said a military camp behind her employer's residence was occupied by the rebels but the military launched a counter-attack and bombardment last week using helicopters.

"If you could just see the bodies, oh brother, you would be throwing up," she said in an interview.

China sends patrol ships to islands held by Japan

BEIJING (AP)—A territorial flare-up between China and Japan intensified as two Beijing-sent patrol ships arrived near disputed East China Sea islands in a show of anger over Tokyo's purchase of the largely barren outcroppings from their private owners.

The China Marine Surveillance has drawn up a plan to safeguard China's sovereignty of the islands and the ships were sent to assert those claims, China's official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday. The marine agency is a paramilitary force whose ships are often lightly armed.

The rocky islands, known as Senkaku to Japanese and Diaoyu to Chinese, have been the focus of recurring spats between the countries and also are claimed by Taiwan. The China-Japan dispute has been heating up in recent months, in part because the nationalist governor

of Tokyo proposed buying the islands and developing them.

Japan's central government announced its own deal this week with the Japanese family it recognizes as the owner. Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura told reporters the government budgeted 2.05 billion yen (\$26 million) for the purchase "to maintain the Senkakus peacefully and stably."

Public broadcaster NHK said the government and the family signed a deal Tuesday.

Beijing responded to the move with fury.

"The determination and the will of the Chinese government and military to safeguard their territorial integrity are firm," Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng said in a statement. "We are closely monitoring the development of the situation and reserve the right to take necessary mea-

sures."

Japan has claimed the islands since 1895. The U.S. took jurisdiction after World War II and turned them over to Japan in 1972. But Beijing sees the purchase as an affront to its claims and its past calls for negotiations.

Japan does not plan to develop the islands, in contrast with the proposal made by Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara.

"Ishihara put the national government in a very difficult spot. He pushed them into doing this now," said Sheila Smith, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. But she said this was a "good outcome" that should be seen as an attempt by Tokyo to sideline Ishihara.

Japan cannot afford to let the dispute hinder its vital ties with China, its top trading partner, Smith said.

Double factory blazes in Pakistan kill 45

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Factory fires in two of Pakistan's major cities killed 45 people and injured dozens more on Tuesday, including some who had to break through barred windows and leap to the ground to escape the flames, said officials and survivors. Workers recounted how their colleagues were trapped behind blocked exits, and firefighters said that one reason why the blazes were so deadly is that the buildings—a shoe factory in the eastern city of Lahore and a garment factory in the southern port of Karachi—lacked clear escape routes. Such safety issues are common through Pakistan, where buildings also lack emergency equipment like alarms and sprinklers and municipal rules are rarely enforced.

World

US-Israel divisions over Iran boil over

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel is sounding increasingly agitated over what it views as American dithering with economic sanctions too weak to force Iran to end its suspected drive toward nuclear weapons.

In a clear message aimed at the White House, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday criticized what he said was the world's failure to spell out what would provoke a U.S.-led military strike against Iranian nuclear facilities. The comments came in response to U.S. refusals in recent days to set "red lines" for Tehran.

With his strong words, Netanyahu is taking a bold gamble. He clearly hopes to rattle the U.S. into doing more, for fear that Israel might otherwise soon attack Iran on its own. But he risks antagonizing President Barack Obama dur-

ing a re-election campaign and straining relations with Israel's closest and most important ally. Relations between the two leaders have often been tense in the past.

The White House said that Obama and Netanyahu spoke by telephone for an hour Tuesday night and reaffirmed that the countries are united in their determination to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The two leaders agreed to continue "close consultations going forward" regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions, the White House said.

The White House also denied published reports that Obama had rejected Netanyahu's request to meet with Obama in Washington next week. The White House says no such request was made or rejected.

Israeli officials say American politics do not factor into their thinking, but that the sense of urgency is so grave that the world cannot hold its breath until after the November election.

"The world tells Israel, 'Wait. There's still time,'" Netanyahu said Tuesday. "And I say: 'Wait for what? Wait until when?' Those in the international community who refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red light before Israel."

Israel views a nuclear-armed Iran as a mortal threat, citing Iran's persistent calls for the destruction of the Jewish state, its development of missiles capable of striking Israel, and Iranian support for Arab militant groups.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

Wounded flood hospitals in Syria's largest city

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—It had been a calm day in Aleppo's Shifa Hospital, said Dr. Osman al-Haj Osman, his face etched with exhaustion from just three hours of sleep. Then, a man burst in bearing the shrieking bundle of a 6-year-old girl who'd had a machine-gun bullet rip through both her knees.

Two months into the battle for Syria's largest city, civilians are still bearing the brunt of the daily assaults of helicopter gunships, roaring jets and troops fighting in the streets.

Shoving aside the orderlies and armed rebels milling around the cramped lobby Tuesday afternoon, the man deposited Fatima Qassem onto a gurney as a nurse swooped in and began cutting away the blood-soaked bandages on her knees.

A doctor reached in and pulled out an inch-long fragment of metal. There was a

gush of blood. Large sections of bone and muscle were missing from the back of her knee.

She cried out plaintively for "Baba," because the man who brought her was not her father—just someone who had rushed her across town to the hospital. The family was hopelessly on its way.

There was a piercing scream as the nurse picked her up again, jostling her awkwardly dangling legs and carrying her around a narrow corner into a small operating theater. Her cries subsided into a steady moan.

Her father, Abdu Qassem, came in 15 minutes later, his shirt covered with blood, probably from carrying his daughter out of the car, and frantically asked the orderly behind the desk how she was doing.

Qassem said they had been driving through a neighborhood when their car was raked

by machine-gun fire from government troops.

In the operating room, Fatima's crying grew muffled as an anesthetic was administered and her mouth went slack. Osman cleaned the blood away from the wound and tried to find a way to repair the damage.

Just a few feet away from the commotion, on the next bed, a nurse calmly bandaged the hand of a stone-faced rebel who was oblivious to the stricken child nearby.

A tiny boy walked in and stared with curiosity at the blood and ruin of Fatima's legs before a nurse suddenly saw him and ushered him out. It was Osman's 4-year-old son, Omar.

When Osman started pulling all-day and all-night shifts during Syria's civil war, his wife and two children moved into the hospital so that he would actually get to see them.

Suspected al-Qaida bombing misses Yemen minister

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's defense minister narrowly escaped assassination Tuesday when a powerful car bomb ripped through his motorcade as it traveled in the nation's capital, killing at least 13 people in an attack that bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

The bombing came a day after Yemeni authorities announced the killing of the No. 2 leader of the network's Yemeni branch—the terror group's most active—in an apparent U.S. airstrike.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the midmorning blast in Sanaa, but al-Qaida's Yemeni branch is believed to be behind at least five other failed assassination attempts against the minister, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, who has recently won national acclaim as a seasoned

and popular commander in the fight against al-Qaida militants.

Hours after the attack, Yemen's new president fired the chiefs of national security and military intelligence, as well as the step brother of ousted leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Ali Saleh al-Ahmar was the director of the office of the supreme commander of the armed forces, a position from which he wielded vast powers.

The bombing appeared to be in the vein of a string of attacks blamed on al-Qaida since the terror network suffered a series of setbacks at the hands of U.S.-backed government troops. The offensive has dislodged the group from a large swath of southern Yemen it had occupied for more than a year.

The battlefield defeats came as many residents in the south turned against the militants,

mostly out of anger over their brutality or because of the disruptions caused by fighting with government forces.

Al-Qaida responded to the defeats by staging brutal attacks that cost them even more local support. In recent months, they have attacked mourners at funerals, targeted troops praying in mosques and sent a suicide bomber to a military parade rehearsal.

Tuesday's bombing hit the last vehicle in Ahmed's three-car convoy as it was traveling through Sanaa's al-Izza neighborhood, according to Yemeni security officials. The blast left the car a charred hulk of twisted metal, with burnt bodies strapped inside, and blew out the windows of storefronts and scorched a nearby building. Pools of blood stained the pavement as hundreds of soldiers and onlookers converged on the site.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Base attack kills 3 Afghans, destroys NATO chopper

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan insurgents bombarded a U.S. base and destroyed a NATO helicopter, killing three Afghan intelligence employees, officials said Tuesday. There were also NATO personnel aboard and wounded, the coalition said without providing further details. Separately, a teenage suicide bomber on Tuesday walked into a shop in western Afghanistan and blew himself up, killing five people, Afghan officials said. The bombing and the strike at Bagram Air Field outside Kabul came as U.S. and its allied military forces marked the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks with a tribute to the more than 3,000 foreign troops killed since the invasion of Afghanistan—including about 2,000 members of the U.S. military.

Focus

AP
In this Aug. 20, 2012 photo, from the 220-meter (670 feet) summit of Mt. Bi, visitors look down on the airport's single runway jutting out into the sea on Beigan in the Matsu island group, off northern Taiwan.



BEIGAN, Taiwan (AP)—Cheng Yu-lan surveys the terraced courtyard outside her deserted Matsu tea shop and considers the \$2 billion bonanza about to wash over the offshore Taiwanese archipelago—a bonanza that seems set to change the lives of its 7,000 people beyond all recognition.

In July, some 3,000 Matsu residents voted 57 to 43 to permit casino gambling in this onetime Cold War flashpoint, immortalized during the 1960 American presidential campaign when John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon traded barbs over possible American aid in the event of an attack from mainland China, just 16 kilometers (10 miles) to the west.

Their votes were clearly influenced by the promises of American businessman Bill Weidner, who pledged not only to build a new casino, but also a world-class tourist resort, a vastly expanded airport, a 3-kilometer (2-mile) bridge linking Matsu's two main islands, a university designed to train some of the 5,000 people needed to run the facilities, and perhaps most alluring of all, a monthly payment of 80,000 New Taiwan dollars (\$2,666) for every Matsu resident five years after the casino opens.

The choice might have seemed clear in a place with just the barest patina of industry and agriculture—in fact the barest patina of anything at all except for heart-stopping natural beauty and the presence of tens of millions of increasingly prosperous Chinese consumers just across the waters of the East China Sea.

"Of course I voted in favor," said a woman who identified herself only by her surname, Lin, as she lazily prepared hong zao, a sorghum-based sauce that is a staple of local cooking. "With all this money how could I not?"

But to Cheng and other Matsu natives—even people who voted "yes"—the issue is anything but simple, complicated by serious concerns over the environment, and the possible intro-

duction or drugs and organized crime into their placid island home.

"To say whether this project is either good or bad is very difficult," said Cheng, 55, proudly showing a visitor the traditional southern Chinese furniture she has painstakingly assembled in her dimly lit tea shop. "There are both pros and cons, good points and bad."

Weidner's head of Asian operations, Hong Kong-born Eric Chiu, acknowledges Cheng's worries, but said he and the company he represents will safeguard Matsu's traditional culture even as they develop a world-class casino and resort complex that will attract visitors from all over Asia.

"The key to this project is good man-

agement," he said. "And we will provide that management."

ag years required to complete construction. By year five, he said, the Matsu venture will be hosting about 4.5 million visitors, about 70 percent from mainland China. Monthly payments of NT\$18,000 to each of Matsu's 7,000 residents will begin in year one, he said, rising to the NT\$80,000 figure in year five, based on the expected arrival figure of 4.5 million.

That's a very compelling lure in an area decimated by the withdrawal of upward of 90 percent of the Cold War military garrison of more than 10,000, demobilized in the wake of the gradual decrease in tensions with China that began in the early 1990s.

Together with Kinmen—also known

as Quemoy—Matsu is one of the two island territories chockablock that

Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek retained when he retreated to Taiwan following his defeat on the Chinese mainland at the hands of Mao Zedong's Communists in 1949.

Its onetime front-line status is memorialized today in the shape of countless monuments to the bygone days of military confrontation: Tunnels for protecting vital military equipment, anti-aircraft machine guns placed on strategic hilltops, pillboxes overlooking likely routes of enemy egress, tanks and armored personnel carriers dotting the hilly landscape.

With the military garrison now only a shadow of its former self, Matsu today exists largely on the proceeds of a modest tourism industry—the county government says annual arrivals are 100,000—and the manufacture of a sorghum-based liquor, which unlike the gaoliang produced on fellow offshore territory Kinmen, convenience store, and the few retail outlets inhabit a complex of decaying concrete structures that are most notable for their low-wattage gracelessness.

What Beigan does have is spectacular beauty. From the 220-meter (670-foot) summit of Mount Bi, a visitor looks down on the airport's single runway jutting out into the azure blue of the East China Sea, and beyond it, a fetching stretch of golden beachfront lying just below the verdant promontory selected as the site of the Weidner casino. To the south, a rocky coastline intersects with the picturesque village of Chin Be, where several of the original stone homes have been converted into tony bed and breakfasts, overlooking the Min River estuary and the wind farm-dotted hills of southern China's Fujian province.

Zheng Yu-zhe, a 23-year-old guide at the small military museum adjacent to the proposed casino site, said it is preserving this environment that convinced him to oppose the project.

"Beigan is known for its traditional Fujian architectural style," he said. "But if you build the casino project you will have to do all kinds of land reclamation and it will ruin the environment. So I voted against."

Land reclamation is certainly part of the project, said Chiu. He said it will be necessary to expand the Beigan airport so it can accommodate hundreds of thousands of annual travelers from China, Taiwan and beyond.

"We are thinking big," he said. "We want to create a Mediterranean of Asia resort in Matsu. A destination resort."

That kind of thinking is music to the ears of county magistrate Yang Suei-sheng, whose modest office on Nangan island, Beigan's southern neighbor, and the planned site of Weidner's proposed 3-kilometer bridge, has become a beehive of activity for the casino project.

Asked why it is Weidner and not the Taipei government that will be shelling out the \$400 million needed for the airport extension and the \$200 million needed for the bridge, he just shrugged his shoulders and laughed.

"The government doesn't have any money," he said. "If you wait for them to pay for this it could take another 100 years."

Cheng said it is the bridge and airport expansion that most resonated for local residents when they voted to support the project—even more than the obviously appealing promise of NT\$80,000 per month.

"The bridge and the airport will make things so convenient around here," she said. "Much more convenient than ever before."

But despite voting "yes" herself, Cheng said she still worries about the impact of the project on Matsu's young people, fearing that they may end up dealing cards, or partaking in other supposedly disreputable professions associated with the gambling industry, or even worse, being exposed to crime and drugs.

"Of course our young people will have jobs now," she said. "But it will not come without a price."

Sleepy Taiwan isles face dicey \$2 billion makeover

Environment

Florida sea turtle numbers up; climate change poses threat

By LUDMILLA LELIS
ORLANDO SENTINEL

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla.—Canaveral National Sea-

shore and neighboring beaches in central Florida are reporting record numbers of loggerhead sea turtle nests, a promising change from a decade-long drop.

But now a new threat is looming: rising temperatures. Summers are gradually getting warmer at Canaveral. And with climate change scenarios

projecting the trend to continue, there's increasing concern it might get so hot that the eggs literally fry.

This could mean trouble especially for the male of the species, which is already at a disadvantage in Florida. Sea turtle biologists have long used the adage "hot mamas, cool dads" as a reminder that loggerhead sea turtles become male or female based on the temperature when their eggs incubate—higher temperatures make them females.

With the prospect of even hotter weather as a backdrop, the interplay between temperatures and sea turtle eggs is the basis for a

study by University of Central Florida graduate student Monette Auman, who is tracking nest temperatures and hatching



TYLER MOORE
Tyler Moore, 10, watches as one of the live loggerhead sea turtles found in a nest inventory at South Carolina's Myrtle Beach State Park makes its way to the Atlantic Ocean on Friday, September 7, 2012.

success of some loggerhead sea turtle nests at Canaveral National Seashore.

"It's an interesting subject to

discuss because there are questions like, what does an overabundance of females mean to the population?" Auman said. "And what happens if rising temperatures put sea turtles in a more precarious situation?"

From 2001 to 2011, average temperatures at Canaveral were 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit higher than they were from 1961 to 1990, according to a new study released by two environmental groups, the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and the National Resources Defense Council.

Climate change scenarios suggest that average temperatures could continue to increase an additional 1.8 to 4 degrees by 2060, the report said.

Loggerhead sea turtles are protected under federal law as a threatened species, and Florida beaches are home to 90 percent of the nation's loggerhead nests, making the state's shoreline crucial to the species' survival. The marine turtle nests are closely tracked, and regulations protect them from human interference.

In recent years, scientists have been concerned that the loggerheads may be in trouble. Though nest counts steadily increased during the 1990s, those numbers plummeted 40 percent to record lows in 2007.

Do Your Part when cleaning grout and grime

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Do you have tough grout stains you'd love to get rid of? Do Your Part to clean those stubborn stains without harsh and toxic cleaners. Fumes from many of the popular chemical-based cleaners can ac-

tually pollute the air inside your home. While that's unhealthy for you and your family, lots of people think that they are the only options that truly work on grout and grime. So, I've done the dirty work for you and tested three different grout-cleaning methods to see what works best.

I focused on three areas of my kitchen's tile floor. The lines of grout were dirty from years of traffic and neglect. First, I created a paste made of safe, non-toxic oxygenated bleach along with water. I put it along one line of grout. Then, I created a paste of baking soda and bleach. I don't normally recommend bleach for jobs like these because there are safer and less toxic options but I wanted to see a side-by-side comparison. Finally, I used a paste of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide. I scrubbed them all with an industrial brush and let them sit for an hour.

When I returned, I could clearly see which two methods worked best. The oxygenated bleach and the chlorine bleach lines were sparkling white—without much effort. The grout line treated with baking soda and hydrogen peroxide was cleaner but not sparkling white. My recommendation is to go with the oxygenated bleach method because it's safer and the difference was remarkable.

Another thing I recommend for every home is to create a green cleaning kit. That kit

can included the oxygenated bleach I mentioned, hydrogen peroxide, as well as other effective and more natural options such as white vinegar which disinfects, baking soda, and borax to treat mold and mildew. Not only are these options much healthier for your home, they are big money savers. For instance, a large of jug of white vinegar will cost you about \$3.50. That's the same price of the leading glass cleaner that is 1/5th the size. If you whip up a glass cleaner using 1 part vinegar to 1 part water, that jug of vinegar will last ten times longer than the store bought one for the same price. You can find all of my favorite green cleaning recipes at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

Of course, there are also store bought green cleaners that won't pollute your home and they are becoming easier to find. Just look for ones that are plant based and fragrance-free.

Remember, you don't need to load up on toxic chemicals when you do a deep and effective clean. Instead, Do Your Part to make a healthier choice that won't dirty the air inside your home.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

In Celebration of His New Life
Juan Tenorio Chargualaf
July 12, 1966 – September 6, 2012

Was called by Our Lord Jesus Christ to his eternal rest on Thursday, September 6, 2012 at the age of 46.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Mother: Maria Arriola Tenorio Chargualaf
Grand Father/Mother: Lino P. & Magdalena A. Tenorio
Isidro C. & Maria S. Chargualaf
Reared Auntie: Trinidad A. Tenorio
Lourdes A. Tenorio

He is survived by his:
Father: Eusebio S. Chargualaf
Wife: Ruby De Guzman Chargualaf
Step Daughter: Rochelle M. De Guzman (PI)
Brothers/Spouses & Children: Noel T. & Rita L. Chargualaf (Nathan, Brandon & Rinel)
Sevio T. Chargualaf, Jr. (Craig & Caitlin)
David T. Chargualaf & Elizabeth Tomokane (Ainah & Sandra)

In-Laws:
Parents: Rodolfo & Maria M. De Guzman (PI)
Rod M. De Guzman & Family (Canada)
Brother/Sisters: Raquel DG Polito & Family (PI)
Rhea DG Sampan & Family (PI)
Redgina Belldandy De Guzman (PI)

He will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, godchildren, relative and friends.

Mass at Kristo Rai Church (Garapan) is offered daily at 6:00 AM. On **Friday, September 14, 2012**, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 AM. Viewing and lasts respects may be paid beginning at 8:00 AM with the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:00 AM. Interment follows at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Salamat Po
The Family



In Celebration of Her New Life
Katrina Reynalyn Rebeliyan Ruwaath
July 13, 2012 – September 01, 2012

Katrina Reynalyn Rebeliyan Ruwaath went to be with our Lord on September 01, 2012. Her final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that Katrina had touched in some small way throughout her short, yet very memorable life.

Katrina's life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by her understood that the quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time in which one lives. Her gentle smile, coo's, butterfly kisses, tiny fingers and toes and baby soft skin brought so much joy to our family.



Although she was so tiny and frail, she gave us all such courage and hope and reminded us of the preciousness of life. She loved to smile, be sung to and gazed at bright lights. She enjoyed music and soft sounds. She loved to be soothed by being held in the arms of her parents.

Katrina's Memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Parents: MaryRose G. and Venitus (Vince) Ruwaath
Brother: Deven G. Gima
Sisters: Kaylina and Kabrina Ruwaath
Maternal Grandparents: James and Regina Gima & Reynaldo Gonzales
Paternal Grandparents: John and Patrice Ruwaath & Edward and Nicolina Gechig

She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

On Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 9:00a.m., the Christian Celebration Service will be held at Life In The Son Christian Fellowship Church (two storey building across Hollywood Videos at San Jose), followed by Christian Burial at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank You, Kammagar, Salamat Po, Dangkulo na Si Yuus Ma'ase & Ghilisoo
Vince, MaryRose, Deven, Kaylina & Kabrina



Life & Style

Knox's boyfriend maintains innocence

SEATTLE (AP)—Raffaele Sollecito, whose budding love affair with American exchange student Amanda Knox helped land him in an Italian prison for four years, maintains the couple's innocence in a new book but acknowledges that their sometimes bizarre behavior after her roommate's killing gave police reason for suspicion.

The pair was imprisoned for the November 2007 death of Meredith Kercher at Knox's apartment in Perugia, north of Rome. An appeals court overturned their conviction and freed them last fall, issuing a 143-page opinion that blasted the utter lack of evidence against them. Rudy Guede, a petty criminal who was convicted separately, remains imprisoned and is serving a 16-year-sentence.

Sollecito's book, "Honor Bound," is due out Sept. 18. The Associated Press purchased a copy Tuesday.

In it, he describes how the early days of their relationship became a nightmare: the horror of Kercher's slaying; the misunderstandings that swept them up in the case; their tabloid portrayals as two suspects unrecognizable to themselves.

Knox became "Foxy Knoxy" and received the brunt of the attention as she shopped for underwear after the killing and turned cartwheels in front of in-



AP
In this June 26, 2009 file photo, murder suspect Raffaele Sollecito is escorted by a penitentiary police officer as he arrives for a hearing in the Meredith Kercher murder trial, in Perugia, Italy.

vestigators. While police investigated the crime scene, Sollecito caressed her and they kissed, unaware of the television news cameras across the street.

Later at the police station she climbed in his lap and draped her arms over him, making Sollecito uneasy, he said.

Police found their behavior "odd" and he acknowledged

they had no "real alibi the night of Nov. 1 except each other."

Knox is also writing a book, due out next spring. Her deal, with HarperCollins, is reportedly worth \$4 million.

The couple were arrested several days after Kercher's death and later convicted in proceedings that made headlines around the world. Prosecutors portrayed

the case as a drug-fueled sexual assault, and Knox and Sollecito were sentenced to 26 years and 25 years, respectively.

The appeals court found the prosecution's theory to be unsupported by any evidence. Prosecutors have appealed the acquittal, and Italy's highest court will hear their arguments next March.

Sollecito frequently criticizes the police for their handling of the case, reaching for a far-fetched conspiracy instead of the simpler explanation that Guede had on his own committed a burglary gone wrong.

Sollecito, then finishing his undergraduate studies in computer science, writes that he met Knox at a classical music concert at the Università per Stranieri, the University for Foreigners, on Oct. 25, 2007—a week before Kercher's death. He asked for her number, and she told him to come by the bar where she'd be working later that night. At the end of the shift, he writes, they took a walk, held hands and kissed. She accepted an invitation to come back to his apartment and spent the night.

Soon the couple became inseparable. She began spending the nights at his apartment. They shopped for groceries together, and took a sightseeing day trip to Assisi.

Anti-Islam filmmaker in hiding after protests

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Israeli filmmaker went into hiding Tuesday after his movie attacking Islam's prophet Muhammad sparked angry assaults by ultra-conservative Muslims on U.S. missions in Egypt and Libya, where one American was killed.

Speaking by phone from an undisclosed location, writer and director Sam Bacile remained defiant, saying Islam is a cancer and that the 56-year-old intended his film to be a provocative political statement condemning the religion.

Protesters angered over Bacile's film opened fire on and

burned down the U.S. consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, killing an American diplomat on Tuesday. In Egypt, protesters scaled the walls of the U.S. embassy in Cairo and replaced an American flag with an Islamic banner.

Bacile, a California real estate developer who identifies himself as an Israeli Jew, said he believes the movie will help his native land by exposing Islam's flaws to the world.

"Islam is a cancer, period," he repeatedly said in a solemn, accented tone.

The two-hour movie, "Inno-

cence of Muslims," cost \$5 million to make and was financed with the help of more than 100 Jewish donors, said Bacile, who wrote and directed it.

The film claims Muhammad was a fraud. An English-language 13-minute trailer on YouTube shows an amateur cast performing a wooden dialogue of insults disguised as revelations about Muhammad, whose obedient followers are presented as a cadre of goons.

It depicts Muhammad as a feckless philanderer who approved of child sexual abuse, among other overtly insulting claims that have

caused outrage.

Muslims find it offensive to depict Muhammad in any manner, let alone insult the prophet. A Danish newspaper's 2005 publication of 12 caricatures of the prophet triggered riots in many Muslim countries.

Though Bacile was apologetic about the American who was killed as a result of the outrage over his film, he blamed lax embassy security and the perpetrators of the violence.

"I feel the security system (at the embassies) is no good," said Bacile. "America should do something to change it."

Jury adds \$20M more to Wynn slander case damages

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury doubled its verdict against "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis on Tuesday, ordering him to pay an additional \$20 million in punitive damages to Steve Wynn for claiming the casino mogul threatened to kill him.

The decision came one day after the same nine men and three women awarded Wynn \$20 million after determining that Francis' allegations slandered the designer of upscale casinos. Francis plans to appeal the verdicts.

The panel followed the suggestion of Wynn's attorney, Barry Langberg, who asked jurors to double their initial verdict,



Wynn



Francis

which was intended to compensate Wynn for damage to his reputation and casino empire.

In a statement released after Tuesday's verdict, Wynn called Francis a "digital assassin" and urged people to think before they post things online or speak ill of others.

"Thank God for the justice system that finally sent a mes-

sage: If you think you're taking a cheap shot, it may be a lot more expensive than you had imagined," Wynn said.

Francis' attorney, Aaron Aftergood, argued that Wynn's side hadn't shown any evidence about his client's finances and they shouldn't deliver another large judgment. Francis did not provide financial records to Wynn's attorney, so estimates of his wealth were not presented to jurors.

Francis claimed record producer Quincy Jones told him that Wynn threatened to hit him in the back of the head with a

shovel and have him buried in the desert amid a dispute over a gambling debt, but the Grammy winner testified no such statements were made.

"Today, I am incredibly disappointed the jury grossly misinterpreted the facts presented in the courtroom," Francis wrote in a statement. "I still maintain that my life was endangered and I plan on appealing this verdict. One day the public will see that I am the real victim here and not Steve Wynn."

Wynn is the CEO of Wynn Resorts Ltd. and designed Las Vegas casinos such as The Mirage, Bellagio, Wynn and Encore.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies.
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



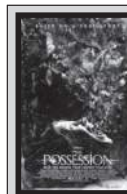
\$6.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



Friday, Sept. 7th through Thursday, Sept. 13th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★



The Possession

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Tuesday	4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Inspired by Los Angeles Times writer Leslie Gornstein's article "A Jinx in a Box," this horror film from Ghost House Pictures and director Ole Bornedal (Nightwatch) tells the tale of a broken family that comes under attack from a malevolent supernatural entity of Jewish folklore. Shortly after her parents (Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgwick) divorce, a young girl purchases an ornate antique box at a yard sale. In the weeks that follow, the young girl forms an intense fixation on the box, her behavior growing increasingly bizarre as she falls into the grip of a diabolical apparition. When the girl's father discovers that the relic is in fact a holding cell for the disconnected soul of a deceased person who has been denied entry into the afterlife and needs a human host to inhabit, he fights to rid her of the evil that threatens to consume her body and soul.



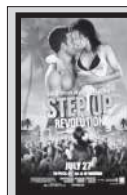
The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10
Monday thru Tuesday	4:05	7:10	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A happy husband and wife receive a most unexpected gift in this enchanting fantasy drama from Academy Award-nominated writer/director Peter Hedges (What's Eating Gilbert Grape?, Dan in Real Life). Jim (Joel Edgerton) and Cindy Green (Jennifer Garner) are deeply in love and planning to start a family in Stanleyville when one night, during a thunderous storm, a young boy named Timothy (CJ Adams) comes knocking at their door. In time, the prospective new parents and their curious neighbors discover that the most amazing things can happen just when you least expect it.



Step Up: Revolution

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Tuesday	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
Drama • Rated PG13



Hit and Run

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Tuesday	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated R



The Expendables 2

Friday	4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05
Monday thru Tuesday	4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R



Paranorman

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Tuesday	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudgeon, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG



Bourne Legacy

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Tuesday	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Siblings blinded by father's money turn away from mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father left my mother after 32 years of marriage. To say Mom was devastated would be putting it mildly. She tried to keep things cordial for the sake of her four kids, but Dad spurned her efforts.

My three brothers and I are now married with children of our own. Only recently have I been able to express how ashamed I am of myself and my siblings for the despicable way we have treated our mother for the past 17 years.

Dad was always arrogant, but he became even worse when he came into money. In our lives, Dad became No. 1. The reason? You guessed it -- the money. We put our mother down every chance we got, and our spouses chimed right in. We visited her only once or twice a year and never repaid the money she lent us. She knew she wasn't wanted or respected. Dad is clueless to the fact that we hang around only because of what we can get (and have gotten) from him. This is still true of my brothers, but I no longer want any part of this charade.

Mom is gone now. No, she hasn't passed away. She quietly moved out of our lives and I don't know where she is. I don't blame her for leaving. The abuse she took from us shouldn't happen to a dog. When I look back, I remember a mother who held a full-time job, kept a marvelous home, was a great cook and had a wonderful laugh and sensitivity. She didn't smoke, drink or cheat on Dad. Was she perfect? Of course not; none of us is.

All she wanted after the divorce was to be loved by her kids and spend time with her grandkids. Now the grandkids are growing up without knowing this wonderful woman.

Mom, if you see this letter, I LOVE YOU DEARLY. I hope you can someday forgive me for all the years of hateful remarks and unkind deeds. The pain you must have suffered is something I'll have to live with the rest of my life. You are a class act, and I'm going to live the rest of my life trying to emulate your values and quiet dignity.

MISSING MY MOM IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR MISSING: If you're truly sorry, it's time to tell your mother personally and ask her forgiveness. Do whatever it takes to locate her, including hiring a private detective if necessary. It may be expensive, but use some of the money you got from Dear Old Dad.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an 81-year-old grandmother who blindly trusted that my annual Pap smear exam would provide early detection for any type of uterine cancer.

It took a diagnosis of uterine cancer that resulted in a subsequent hysterectomy for me to discover that this test is not enough. Although the Pap test should be part of a regular checkup, it only checks for cervical cancer. Except when hormone therapy is being taken, any bleeding, spotting or abnormal discharge following menopause is NOT normal and should be reported at once to your doctor.

GEORGIA GRANDMOTHER

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: I'm pleased that your cancer was caught in time. However, whether a woman is pre- or post-menopausal—and whether or not she is on hormone therapy—she should IMMEDIATELY alert her doctor to any abnormal bleeding, spotting or discharge. These symptoms are not just warning signs of cancer. They could also indicate a polyp that needs removal, or a sexually transmitted disease.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

'Avengers' boss Whedon makes 'Much Ado'

TORONTO (AP)—Joss Whedon figures if Shakespeare were alive today, he might be writing superhero stories. Only better ones than Whedon and his colleagues are doing.

Whedon, the writer-director behind this summer's superhero sensation "The Avengers," has unveiled a passion project at the Toronto International Film Festival—his adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

Considering the fantastic worlds of ghosts, sorcerers and witches of Shakespeare's works, Whedon said the playwright might feel right at home working in a superhero realm such as the Marvel Comics universe of "The Avengers."

"Yeah, I think he very well might. He'd be doing it better than the rest of us. But he was not afraid of the big themes and the bigger-than-life characters," Whedon said in an interview at Toronto, where his "Much Ado" premiered over the weekend. "And his stuff was full of pop-culture references. I'm not comparing myself to him, but I

am saying, yeah, I think he would have as much fun in the genre.

"He's not going to crawl out of the grave and write 'Steel Magnolias.' Not that there's anything wrong with that, but that wouldn't be his thing."

Whedon's "Much Ado About Nothing" was done for pure love of Shakespeare during whatever spare time he could find while he was he in post-production after the long shoot on "The Avengers." He rounded up friends and family for the low-budget "Much Ado," which was shot at his own home in Los Angeles, with wife Kai Cole as executive producer and a cast filled with close pals.

Amy Acker and Alexis Denisof from Whedon's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" spinoff "Angel" star as the wily wits Beatrice and Benedick, who devote themselves to mocking each other even as friends and family scheme to make them fall in love during preparations for the wedding of Benedick's pal Claudio and Beatrice's cousin Hero.

The cast also includes Clark Gregg of "The Avengers" and Nathan Fillion and Sean Maher of Whedon's short-lived sci-fi series "Firefly" and its big-screen spinoff "Serenity."

Whedon uses Shakespeare's original language but updates the story to modern times, with the returning soldiers of Shakespeare's play now coming off as classy mobsters in business suits and town cars (Whedon shot in black and white because he wanted a film-noir feel despite the romance and comedy of the story). The characters knock back shots of liquor, crank up music and videos on their smartphones and party by a pool lit with tiki torches, while conversing in Shakespeare's clever, rhythmic dialogue.

Acker and Denisof had participated in a reading of "Much Ado" that Whedon staged at his house years ago. Whedon had long

wanted to do a movie version, and when he finished shooting "The Avengers" last year, he substituted the film instead of the family vacation he had planned.

"When we showed up for the first day of filming, everyone was like, oh, a real movie. We weren't sure if it was Joss with a flip camera," Acker said. "And when we got there, there was a crew and craft service and trucks and lights, so it was for real. Luckily, he only gave us about two weeks' notice and he didn't give us enough time to panic and realize, oh, we're playing these majorly important and great parts. We just had to learn the lines and do it."

It still was a do-it-yourself affair, shot in just 12 days, with Whedon also producing and composing the music, as well as editing the film with a colleague during lunch breaks and weekends while he was finishing "The Avengers."



Whedon



Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, smiles during a ceremony naming a hybrid orchid in their honor at the Orchard Garden within the Singapore Botanical Gardens in Singapore, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012.

Prince William, Kate start Asia tour in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP)—Prince William and his wife Kate saw an orchid named for them and another for his late mother Princess Diana in Singapore on Tuesday, 15 years after she was to have viewed the flower herself.

Diana was due to visit the white orchid named in her honor in 1997, but was killed in a car crash two weeks earlier.

William stared at its delicate flowers, saying, "It's beautiful, it's beautiful."

The royal couple was also

shown an orchid with white and purple blooms that is jointly named for them.

Kate wore a pale floral dress to the event. She was carrying an orchid bouquet when she and William greeted staff and spectators at the historic Raffles Hotel later in the day.

The couple will also visit the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu in honor of the queen's Diamond Jubilee marking her 60 years on the throne.

The babies are 30-year-old Paquin's first children. Moyer, 42, has two children from previous relationships.

The "True Blood" stars were married in 2010. The show is in its fifth season on HBO.

News of the births was first reported by People.com.

The babies are 30-year-old Paquin's first children. Moyer, 42, has two children from previous relationships.

The "True Blood" stars were married in 2010. The show is in its fifth season on HBO.

News of the births was first reported by People.com.

TOP APPS

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Sep. 10, 2012:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS:

1. Wipeout (Activision Publishing, Inc.)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Minecraft — Pocket Edition (Mojang)
4. Camera+ (tap tap tap)
5. Angry Birds Space (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
6. Mini Empires Plus (Midverse Studios)
7. TETRIS (Electronic Arts)
8. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
9. MyCalendar Mobile (K-Factor Media, LLC.)
10. MotionX GPS Drive (MotionX)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS:

1. Airport Scanner (Kedlin Company)
2. Temple Run: Brave (Disney)
3. What's My IQ? (Orangenose Studios)
4. Wipeout Dash (Wired Developments Pty Ltd)
5. Instagram (Burbn, Inc.)
6. SongPop Free (FreshPlanet Inc.)
7. Candy Maker (Sunstorm Interactive)
8. Ninja Must Die (UltraVires)
9. Flashlight ? (iHandy Inc.)
10. Extreme Skater (Miniclip.com)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS:

1. Wipeout (Activision Publishing, Inc.)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Pages (Apple)
4. Notability - Take Notes & Annotate PDFs with Dropbox Sync (Ginger Labs)
5. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
6. Avengers Initiative (Marvel Entertainment)
7. Bastion (Warner Bros.)
8. Angry Birds Space HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. Nick Jr Draw & Play HD (Nickelodeon)
10. Where's My Water? (Disney)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS:

1. Temple Run: Brave (Disney)
2. ESPN Fantasy Football 2012 for iPad (ESPN)
3. THOR: Son of Asgard (Marvel Entertainment)
4. What's My IQ? HD (Orangenose Studios)
5. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l.)
6. Pinterest (Pinterest, Inc.)
7. Airport Scanner (Kedlin Company)
8. iBooks (Apple)
9. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)
10. Bombshells: Hell's Belles (Glu Games Inc.)

Goodell to meet with 4 players in bounty scandal



NEW ORLEANS (AP)— NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and four players whose suspensions in connection with the bounty investigation were recently lifted by an appeals panel have agreed to new meetings on the matter.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Tuesday no specific dates have been set for the meetings. An attorney for Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma said his client hoped to meet with the commissioner by early next week.

The NFL Players Association, which is representing Saints defensive end Will Smith, Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita and free agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, did not immediately comment.

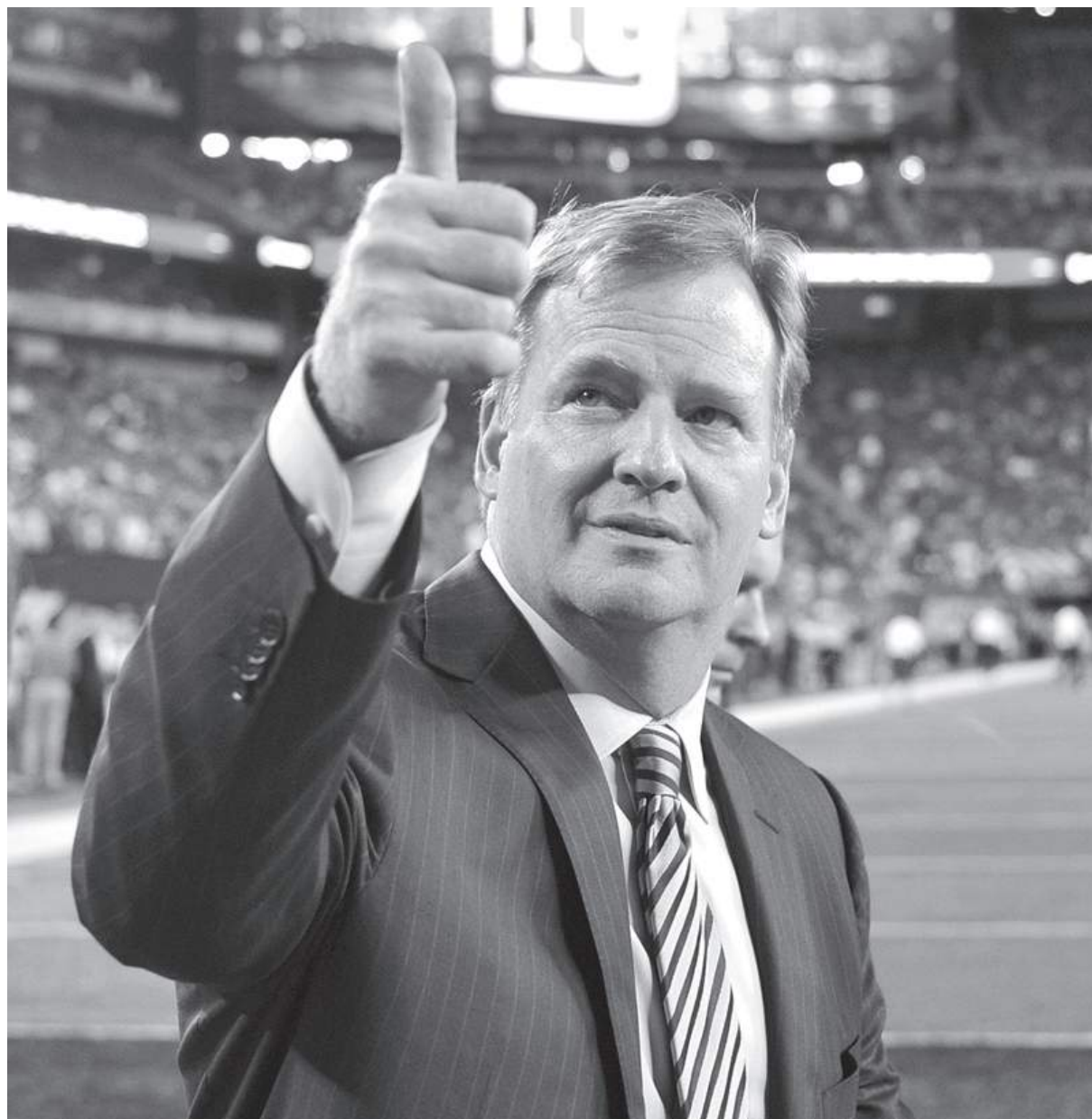
Goodell is reconsidering whether to hand down revised suspensions for the four players who had been punished in an alleged pay-for-pain pool offering cash bonuses for hits that injured opponents.

Ginsberg said Vilma's meeting would not be considered a hearing, but would be more akin to preliminary fact-finding meetings that occur at the outset of the disciplinary process outlined by the NFL's collective bargaining agreement.

"We expect to meet with commissioner Goodell and hopefully have a full, honest exchange of information and come to a just resolution," Ginsberg said.

He was not sure whether Vilma would meet with Goodell individually or at the same time as the other three players represented by the NFLPA.

The three-member panel that lifted the four players' suspensions on Friday did not permanently void them or address the merits of the bounty probe. Rather,



Commissioner Roger Goodell gestures to fans before an NFL football game between the New York Giants and the Dallas Cowboys, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012, in East Rutherford, N.J. AP

it asked Goodell to start the disciplinary process over after ruling it was unclear whether he followed proper procedures in disciplining the players the first time.

It found that it was not clear whether part of Goodell's punishment stemmed from the money the players were found to have received. The panel said punishment relating to financial violations of the league collective bargaining agreement must be heard by an arbitrator other than Goodell.

The panel also said Goodell can only serve as the arbitrator for punishments relating directly to some intent to injure opponents, which would be classified as conduct detrimental to the game.

Vilma and several current and former Saints teammates, as well as suspended assistant head coach Joe Vitt, have already testified in a related federal case that the Saints operated only a performance pool for big plays and that no one ever intended to injure an opposing player.

Their testimony conflicted with the NFL's earlier findings that specific bounties were placed on high profile quarterbacks including Brett Favre and Kurt Warner in the 2009-10 playoffs.

Smith was able to return to action for the Saints' regular season opener on Sunday, a 40-32 loss to the Washington Redskins. He was the only of the four reinstated players who took the field. Fujita sat out after not practicing the week leading up to Cleveland's opening 17-16 loss to Philadelphia. Hargrove is not with a team and Vilma is still working his way back from offseason left knee surgery.

The Saints have placed Vilma on the physically unable to perform list, meaning he cannot play at least through the first six games, even if he receives no new suspension.

Mavs introduce 5 new veteran players



DALLAS (AP)— There was no secret about the Dallas Mavericks' plans going into free agency and their heavy pursuit of Deron Williams.

Things obviously turned out much differently.

More than two months after All-Star guard Williams opted to stay with the Nets for their move to Brooklyn rather than come home to play, the Mavericks formally introduced the five veteran players they were able to add instead.

"We went on the option for the big free agent. That didn't work out. Honestly, that wasn't my first choice," owner Mark Cuban said Monday. "Sometimes the best deals are the ones you don't do and they lead to better things. And I think that's what happened now."

Dallas got Elton Brand on a waiver claim from Philadelphia, signed free agents Chris Kaman and O.J. Mayo, and acquired Darren Collison and Dahntay Jones in a trade from Indiana. All those moves were made in July.

The newcomers sat with Cuban and coach Rick Carlisle at a long table set up on a podium on the main floor of the team's home arena.

Season ticket holders were

invited to attend, and a couple of hundred of them sat in the stands munching on free popcorn. A few even got to ask questions during the hour-long session, which came just less than three weeks before the start of training camp Sept. 29.

Add the three rookies drafted in June, and the Mavericks' current 15-player roster has only seven players back from last season. Only four players remain from their NBA title team the year before that, including perennial All-Star Dirk Nowitzki, who is going into his 14th season.

"Definitely, we want to keep Dirk's window open as long as possible to win another championship," Brand said. "We're hungry because we don't have championships and he does. Hopefully, we make just job a lot easier."

Philadelphia used its one-time amnesty provision in the new CBA to let Brand go, and the Mavs won the waiver claim. The 33-year-old two-time All-Star who will make \$18.1 million the final season of a five-year contract that will be paid mostly by the 76ers.

"I've still got a lot left in the tank," Brand said. "I feel great."

Kaman, a 7-foot center, spent last season in New Orleans after

eight years with the Los Angeles Clippers, spending five of those with Brand. Kaman has also been on the German national team with Nowitzki.

Mayo played the first four seasons of his career in Memphis, averaging 15.2 points in 301 games. The 6-foot-4 guard has already been in Dallas about a month acclimating himself to the organization and the area.

"It's going to be fun," said Mayo, the former USC star who was the third overall pick in the 2008 draft.

"I think he can be a star," Cuban said. "I think O.J. knows this is his make-or-break who am I going to really be in this league. Coach is going to him that opportunity."

Dallas sent Ian Mahinmi to the Pacers in July to get Collison, the guard is going into his fourth season, and Jones, a guard-forward who has played for four different teams in his nine seasons.

Jason Kidd, their 39-year-old point guard whose 1,315 career regular-season games are more than any other active player, and Jason Terry were among the free agents that left Dallas this summer after the Mavericks had the league's oldest team last season.

Before Cuban and the players took the stage, showing on

the huge screen above the floor was the ABC-TV broadcast of the Mavericks' NBA Finals-clinching victory at Miami in June 2011.

There wasn't much to show from the last season, such as the season-opening Christmas Day loss at home to the Heat or the playoffs, when the Mavs were swept by Oklahoma City in the first round. The last game was in the same building four months ago, when Dallas blew a 13-point lead in the final 10 minutes.

After their 2011 championship came the NBA lockout and a new collective bargaining agreement with different rules that affected how the Mavs put together their roster. Cuban strategically let go of some big pieces, moves that also created some salary-cap flexibility for the pursuit of Williams that didn't work out as planned.

"We were talking a calculated risk, you guys knew what I was trying to do up front," Cuban said. "I told you there would be a lot of pieces that fell through the cracks because of the way teams were doing their financing now, and told you teams were going to make enormous mistakes because they didn't understand all the nuances (of the CBA) ... and I think a lot of those fell to our favor."

Source: Timberlake joins bid to buy Grizzlies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— Award-winning singer and actor Justin Timberlake has agreed to be part of the ownership group assembled by billionaire Robert Pera in his attempt to buy the Memphis Grizzlies, said a person familiar with the situation.

The person said Friday that Pera "has assembled a strong ownership group that includes Justin Timberlake, other community leaders from Memphis, and highly strategic national partners." The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the NBA has yet to approve the final purchase of the team.

Pera agreed in June to buy the Grizzlies from Michael Heisley for reportedly about \$350 million.

Pera is a former Apple engineer who left in 2005 to start Ubiquiti Networks, a San Jose, Calif.-based communications technology company that makes WiFi networking equipment. He became a billionaire in October 2011 when his company went public with a fortune estimated at \$1.5 billion in March.

Timberlake, 31, grew up near

Millington, a suburb of Memphis. In the past few years, he helped renovate a golf course northeast of Memphis.

The Grizzlies franchise has been in Memphis for 11 years, since moving from Vancouver. Fans have shown concern over whether a new owner would move the team away from Memphis, where interest in the franchise has grown after two consecutive playoff appearances.

But, in an e-mail, the person told the AP that Pera "is committed to 'doing right by Memphis' and this group reflects that commitment."

Timberlake, who was part of the boy-band 'N Sync before embarking on a solo music career, has won six Grammys.

A four-time Emmy winner, Timberlake has acted in several films—including "Alpha Dog," "The Social Network," and "Friends With Benefits." He also has made memorable performances on "Saturday Night Live."

One thing is certain: If the Pera ownership bid is approved, Timberlake will add more star power to the team than any Grizzlies player, coach or owner ever has.

Hardy hits 2 homers to carry Orioles over Rays, 9-2



BALTIMORE
(AP) — J.J. Hardy homered twice, doubled

and drove in five runs, and the Baltimore Orioles defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 9-2 Tuesday night to move into a tie for the AL East lead.

Hardy went 4 for 5 to help Baltimore pull even atop the division with the New York Yankees, who lost 4-3 at Boston. The Rays are two games behind the co-leaders.

Chris Davis homered and Matt Wieters had three hits and two RBIs for Baltimore.

Hardy hit a two-run homer in the third inning, doubled and scored in the fifth, singled in a run in the sixth and added his 21st homer with a runner on in the eighth.

Baltimore starter Jason Hammel retired 11 of 13 Tampa Bay batters before leaving in the fourth inning with an injured right knee.

Steve Johnson (3-0) got the win with 1 1-3 innings of hitless relief.

Ryan Roberts and Elliott Johnson hit solo homers, and Matt Moore (10-10) allowed two earned runs on four hits and three walks in four innings for Tampa Bay.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3

In Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury singled in the winning run in the ninth inning and Boston beat New York to drop the Yankees into a tie for first place in the AL East.

Pedro Ciriaco, who started the rally with a single, slid in to beat the throw from right fielder Ichiro Suzuki, giving Boston only its second win in 13 games.

The loss left the Yankees and Orioles tied with 79-62 records.

Andrew Bailey (1-0) got the win after allowing one hit in one inning.

David Robertson (1-7) retired his first four batters before giving up three straight singles with one out in the ninth.

Tigers 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Doug Fister pitched seven innings of two-hit ball, Austin Jackson hit a tying two-run homer and Miguel Cabrera delivered a go-ahead solo shot as Detroit reduced Chicago's AL Central lead to two games.

Jackson's 14th homer followed a single by Omar Infante in the top of the fifth off Jake Peavy. One batter later, Cabrera hit his 36th of the season to put the Tigers up 3-2.

The only two hits Fister (9-8) gave up were solo homers to Dewayne Wise and Gordon Beckham.

Peavy (10-11) couldn't hold an early lead. He threw 117 pitches in 5 2-3 innings, yielding six hits, walking two and striking out nine.

Rangers 6, Indians 4

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre homered, Matt Harrison worked into the sixth inning for his 16th victory and AL West-leading Texas beat Cleveland.

Harrison (16-9) struck out six over 5 2-3 innings while becoming the fourth AL pitcher to reach 16 wins. The left-hander allowed five hits and walked three.

Texas scored four times in the second, which started with Beltre reaching on an error that led to three unearned runs. One of those runs scored on the



Baltimore Orioles' J.J. Hardy hits a two-run home run in the third inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in Baltimore, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012.

16th wild pitch by Ubaldo Jimenez (9-16), who has the most losses and wild pitches in the majors.

Joe Nathan worked a perfect ninth for his 32nd save.

Mariners 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Kyle Seager homered and came within a triple of the cycle, and Erasmo Ramirez pitched seven innings for his first major league win to lead Seattle over Toronto.

Starting for the first time since June 30, Ramirez (1-2) allowed two runs and six hits, setting down nine straight at one stretch. He walked one and struck out six. Four relievers combined to work the eighth and Tom Wilhelmson closed it for his 25th save in 28 chances.

Seager had an RBI single in the first, doubled and scored in the third, and added his 18th homer in the fifth as the Mariners snapped a three-game losing streak.

Brandon Morrow (8-6) allowed four runs on 11 hits in 4 2-3 innings. He struck out four.

Royals 9, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Will Smith pitched seven shutout innings and Eric Hosmer homered to lead Kansas City to a win over Minnesota.

Lorenzo Cain fell a home run shy of a cycle and had two RBIs to help the Royals beat the Twins for just the sixth time in the last 16 meetings.

Salvador Perez extended his hitting streak to a career-best 15 games and threw out two runners trying to steal in support of Smith (5-7), who struck out a career-high seven and gave up seven hits in his first win in four starts.

Scott Diamond (11-7) allowed four runs and 10 hits over six innings for Minnesota.

Athletics 6, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Jerry Blevins got Howie Kendrick to ground into a game-ending double play with two runners on in the ninth inning and Oakland won its fifth straight.

Brandon Moss and Yoenis Cespedes homered and Dan Straily pitched into the seventh inning of his fourth major league start for the

A's, who won their 11th straight road game, matching the second-longest streak in franchise history.

Torii Hunter and Albert Pujols had run-scoring singles in the ninth for the Angels, who had runners at the corners and no outs before Blevins relieved A's closer Grant Balfour and earned his first save since 2010.

Coco Crisp hit a ninth-inning RBI triple and scored on Hunter's error in right field for the A's, who have taken two straight at Angel Stadium with a rookie starter on the mound.

Blevins, who had just one save in his first 204 career appearances, struck out Kendrys Morales. Kendrick then grounded to third, and Oakland smartly turned the double play to end it.

Straily (2-0) yielded seven hits and struck out eight in his first start since coming up from Triple-A Sacramento last week.

Phillies 9, Marlins 7

In Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins homered and drove in three runs and Roy Halladay won again as the streaking Philadelphia Phillies outslugged the Miami Marlins for their sixth straight win.

Despite allowing five runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings, Halladay (10-7) improved to 4-0 in his last five starts.

Juan Pierre and Chase Utley had three hits apiece for Philadelphia, which finished with 15 overall while winning for the 14th time in the last 18 games. The five-time defending NL East champion Phillies, who reached .500 for the first time since June 4, are making a late playoff push. They began the day five games behind St. Louis in the NL wild-card race.

Giancarlo Stanton homered for Miami, which has lost nine of 13. Stanton went deep for the 14th time in his last 17 road games to up his league-leading road total to 21 homers.

Marlins starter Nathan Eovaldi (4-12) gave up five runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Jonathan Papelbon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 33rd save in 37 chances.

Diamondbacks 1, Dodgers 0

In Phoenix, Ian Kennedy pitched neatly

into the eighth inning and the Diamondbacks used an unearned run to beat Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers.

Arizona left fielder Jason Kubel robbed Luis Cruz of a two-run homer with a leaping grab at the wall to end the fifth inning.

The lone run came in the seventh, when Paul Goldschmidt reached on shortstop Hanley Ramirez's throwing error and scored from first on Miguel Montero's double.

With San Francisco's win at Colorado, the Dodgers fell six games behind the first-place Giants in the NL West. Arizona ended a six-game home losing streak.

Kennedy (13-11) gave up four hits in 7 1-3 innings. Kershaw (12-9) allowed three hits in seven innings.

Giants 9, Rockies 8

In Denver, Madison Bumgarner hit a three-run homer on a night when he struggled on the mound and Brandon Belt drove in four runs for NL West-leading San Francisco.

Belt broke a tie in the fifth with a two-run double. He also brought in a run on a fielder's choice and added a solo homer for the Giants, who are 20-7 on the road since the All-Star break.

Bumgarner was roughed up by the Rockies, allowing five runs and 11 hits in 4 1-3 innings. But the left-hander gave the Giants a big boost when he drove a 93-mph fastball from Jhoulys Chacin into the left-field seats in the fourth.

Pinch-hitter Tyler Colvin belted a two-run homer for Colorado before Javier Lopez came in and retired Jason Giambi for his seventh save.

Brewers 5, Braves 0

In Milwaukee, Marco Estrada pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, and Rickie Weeks and Aramis Ramirez homered for streaking Milwaukee.

The Brewers won their eighth in a row at Miller Park and reached the .500 mark for the first time since April 24. Milwaukee has surged back into the NL wild-card race by winning 17 of 22 overall, and beat the wild card-leading Braves for the second straight day.

Estrada (3-6) was dominant from the start, allowing only two singles to

Andrelton Simmons in the first five innings. Estrada allowed four hits in 6 2-3 innings and struck out six.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

In New York, Bryce Harper had his first four-hit game and pinch-hitter Tyler Moore launched a go-ahead homer off R.A. Dickey in the seventh inning, powering Washington to the victory.

Harper doubled and singled twice off Dickey after the teen star entered 0 for 10 with six strikeouts against the knuckleballer. Leadoff batter Jayson Werth reached base all five times for the NL East leaders, who have won seven straight and 11 of 12 at Citi Field.

Looking for a win over baseball's top team to boost his Cy Young Award resume, Dickey (18-5) mostly pitched out of trouble for seven solid innings. But he gave up a two-run shot to Moore that made it 3-2 in the seventh.

Reds 5, Pirates 3

In Cincinnati, Mike Leake pitched seven innings, had a pair of hits and scored on a dash home off a wild pitch, helping Cincinnati to the win.

Leake (8-9) gave up nine hits, including Alex Presley's solo homer and pinch-hitter Gaby Sanchez's two-run shot. Leake singled and eventually scored during a decisive three-run second inning off Kevin Correia (10-9).

Brandon Phillips hit Correia's first pitch of the game for a homer and doubled home another run. Scott Rolen added a solo shot.

Astros 1, Cubs 0

In Houston, Jimmy Paredes singled and scored an unearned run in the third inning, lifting Houston to the victory in the matchup of the worst teams in baseball.

It was an otherwise tough night for the second baseman, who committed three errors. Paredes has started the last three games at second base with All-Star Jose Altuve out with an abdominal strain.

Houston starter Jordan Lyles (4-11) yielded two hits and struck out five in five innings. Five relievers completed the shutout, with Wilton Lopez working the ninth for his fourth save.

The last error by Paredes came in the seventh inning, and interim manager Tony DeFrancesco lifted him for Altuve to start the eighth.

Padres 6, Cardinals 4

In San Diego, Logan Forsythe and Alexi Amarista had key hits in a five-run fourth inning and San Diego sent St. Louis to its 10th loss in 13 games.

St. Louis maintained a one-game lead over the Los Angeles Dodgers for the NL's second wild-card berth but dropped 10 1/2 games behind Cincinnati in the NL Central.

Forsythe, a homer shy of the cycle in Monday night's win over St. Louis, doubled in two runs and Amarista added a two-run triple as San Diego erased a 2-0 deficit in the fourth.

Edinson Volquez (10-10) allowed three runs—two earned—and four hits in 5 1-3 innings, striking out six and walking six. He has a career-high 100 walks, the most in the majors this season.

Adam Wainwright (13-13) allowed five runs—two earned—and five hits in six innings

Freestyl boosts playoff bid

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Freestyl got out of a four-way logjam for the second spot in Pool

A of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League after whipping San Roque, 70-59, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Freestyl now has a 4-2 record, one win ahead of Looban, LD Prime, and Church 360, which are in a deadlock with their identical 3-2 slates. Besides taking the solo second place behind first playoff qualifier and Pool B leader Anjie's Boys (5-1), Freestyl also strengthened its chances for one of the three playoff berths left in Pool B. Only the Top 4 teams in the group will march into the next round and San Roque (1-4) and Yuchiyo Printing (1-5) are out of the running, leaving six more teams to battle for the remaining playoff tickets.

A 22-2 dagger in the opening quarter was all Freestyl needed to secure the important win. Donovan Brennan led Freestyl's strong start, scoring 8 points, while four of his teammates also break into the scoreboard for the big 20-point lead. San Roque's lone field goal in the first period came from Mike Borja midway in that canto.

San Roque picked up its scoring in the second quarter, as its key players reported to the game, but Freestyl managed to protect the double-digit lead in the last three periods to eliminate the former.

Brennan paced Freestyl with his 20 points, while George Cruz chipped in

Freestyl's Clayton Kenty pulls up for a one-hander against San Roque's Emerson Bautista during their game in the DLX caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



11, and Dennis Morales and Clayton Kenty added 10 each.

Rommel Usi was the lone double figure scorer for San Roque with 13.

San Antonio 77, MBI 74

Brgy. San Antonio also boosted its play-

off bid after slipping past MBI.

San Antonio improved to a 4-1 record for second place behind the unbeaten Zhaila's All-Stars. MBI fell to fourth place with its 3-2 card. KFC/Taco Bell, which won over Playboy last Friday occupies the No. 3 spot with

its 4-3 slate.

Jaymark De Guzman and Melvin Cadiang top-scored for San Antonio with 17 markers apiece, combining for most of San Antonio points in the fourth canto to thwart MBI's comeback bids. Cadiang had 9 of San Antonio's 21 markers, while De Guzman drilled 10, including a pair of free throws that sealed the team's 3-point win.

MBI spent Monday night chasing San Antonio, as the former fell behind by double digits in the first half after playing sans Leo Galarse. The MBI top-scorer showed up in the second half with San Antonio ahead, 46-32, and failed to make headway in the third, tallying only 2 points.

San Antonio kept the driver's seat at the end of the third, 56-47, but were threatened with Galarse, Nole David, and Dexter Tenorio teaming up in MBI's comeback attempts. However, Cadiang and De Guzman canned rally-halting baskets to save San Antonio in the end.

First Game

San Antonio 77 – Cadiang 17, De Guzman 17, Palacios 13, Ni. Salem 9, Alegre 6, Tabora 6, Ne. Salem 5, Aranda 4.

MBI 74 – Mendoza 19, Tenorio 14, David 10, Samson 10, Trajano 8, Galarse 8, Hernandez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 46-32, 56-47, 77-74.

Second Game

Freestyl 70 – Brennan 30, G. Cruz 11, Kenty 10, Morales 10, Ylung 6, Detera 4, Alejandro 4, R. Cruz 3, Barrozo 2.

San Roque 59 – R. Usi 12, M. Usi 9, Aguilar 8, Salazar 6, Bautista 6, Anicete 5, Odicita 3, Borja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-2, 32-21, 52-39, 70-59.

MBFNMI sets mandatory meeting tonight



Organizers of the upcoming 2nd Annual Masters Basketball

Federation of the Northern Marianas Islands are holding a mandatory meeting for interested participants in the group's 35A, 40A, and 45A divisions tonight at 6pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Opening day is set for Sunday, Sept. 30, 9am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. All games will be every Sunday at the Ada Gym.

The MBFNMI has taken a break in its activities as a result of the recent repairs made at the Ada Gym, but is looking forward to coming back together for some long-awaited healthy competition at the end of the month.

The entrance fee to participate is set at \$10 per player, per division; team fees are set at a lump sum of \$120.

Any individuals who do not have a team are still welcome to register with the club and get in on the action.

Interested participants are encouraged to attend tonight's meeting to learn more about the upcoming activities.

For more information, contact Ray Lizama at 286-6269 or email mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

BITTER

From Page 24

"Mami and I ran and talked from start to the end. I told her how I enjoyed running on Saipan and I want to go the finish line to win with my best friend. She helped me become a strong athlete. She reminds me that a race is not always about the first person to cross the finish line, it is also about fun, and the runner who races against himself or herself is a winner, too" Carey said.

The two top finishers made it to Banzai about 16 minutes ahead of runner-up Pipit Surya, who submitted 2:27:40. Sean Smith was the overall top finisher of the off-road half marathon, clocking in at 1:38:54. Smith defeated two favored participants, Ronald Villafria

and Butch Sublemente. Villafria placed second after posting 1:41:30, while Sublemente dropped from second last year to third last weekend after recording 1:50:53.

In the fun run, Nonie Eugenio ruled the men's division after clocking in at 29:45. Coming in at second place was Steven Pixley, who logged 30:57, while Alexander Racoma completed the Top 3 with his time of 32:30.

In the women's division, Banzai half marathon inaugural winner Kimiko McKagan nosed out Hanako McKagan in a neck-and-neck battle for first place. Kimiko timed in at 37:10, just two second ahead of Hanako. Carol Lynn Pierce rounded out the Top 3 after posting 1:09:02.

"We had a total of 40 participants for both events and it was a great morn-

ing for racing. The weather cooperated with us once again, as runners enjoyed clear skies and an endless supply of Powerade. Sean Smith tore up the course with an amazing sub 1:40 time and he could have been faster if the ground was dry. I can't way to see if he can retain his title in 2013," race organizer Brad Ruszala said.

All proceeds from the even will be donated to the team of three-time Banzai run Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel. Kabiriel will use the donation to send his young runners to the Guam Ko'Ko Road Race next month.

PAIN

From Page 24

alone as the CNMI standout could not get his passport approved in time.

"I really wanted to be a part of the show again because, for one, it is for a good cause, and two, Dr. Takuya is a really good friend of mine, but things just didn't work out. Still I am happy for Swain and I know he will deliver a good show for the kids," said Fitial in an interview with the pair yesterday.

Cangco left on a 4pm flight to Tokyo yesterday and is both excited and anxious to get his very first taste of off-island competition.

"I have always wanted a chance to compete off-island and am going to make the most of the opportunity. I want to thank Kelvin for picking me to go in his place and Dr. Takuya for letting me be a part of the show," said Cangco.

"The Pain" stands 5'6 and weighs in at just over 200 lbs.

He has been studying mixed martial

PIC

From Page 24

down in the third, drilling only 4 fields goal. The Hoopaholics' Edwin Camacho almost outscored the entire Hi-Five crew, as he logged 8 points to give his team a big 51-36 advantage.

Hi-Five never recovered and dropped its debut.

First Game

Hoopaholics 73 – Camacho 22, Litulimar 14, Babauta 12, Fitial 10, Lisua

9, Tenorio 4, Manibusan 2.

High-Five 54 – Iguel 22, Mendiola 13, Peters 7, Rasa 6, Acosta 3, Villacrusis 3.

Scoring by quarters: 9-13, 30-27, 51-36, 73-54.

Second Game

PIC 95 – Barbo 17, Abuys 16, Ba. Demapan 16, Sutton 15, Abuel 13, Salem 12.

Ashley's 80 – Manalo 18, De Dios 16, Mangali 15, Paraiso 6, Aquino 6, Mungcal 5, Cortez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-14, 42-41, 66-63, 95-80.

NMIFA

From Page 24

ning so many programs in the CNMI, we always face the challenge for finding funds for these events so we welcome any support we could get from the private sector," Tan said.

"We appreciate Mr. Rhee's support to NMIFA. We our opening our youth fall season this weekend and the Marianas men's league on Sept. 23, so his donation is a huge push to these programs," Noetzel said.

The NMIFA fall league will feature competitions in the co-ed U6, U8, U10, and U12 division, boys U18, and the girls and boys U15. Matches will be played at the various school pitches.

The boys U15 league will kick off the fall action when it holds two games tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex field. Defending champion MP United will face Tan Holdings at 5:30pm, while Paire will take on Shirley's at 7:30pm. Matansa completes the boys U15 field, which has its matches set for every Friday. The rest of the age group competitions will have their games every Saturday.

"The different clubs have been practicing for the past few months, so we're expecting to see excited games and great players this season," Tan said.

Forty-one teams are entered in the fall league with the U8, U10, and U12 having seven squads each, the U6, girls U15 and boys U18 luring five apiece.

children in Japan and as part of the initial agreement, is also donating 600 toothbrushes this year to his CNMI guest that will be donated to the Department of Youth Services upon his return on Saturday.

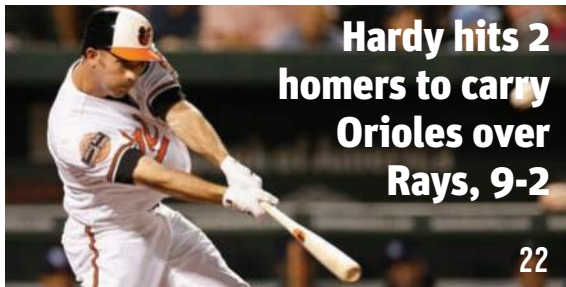
Fitial defeated Takuya the first go around, however, the gracious host has since been training hard in preparation for the upcoming affair.

According to Fitial, the Cangco will be pitted toe-to-toe in a MMA exhibition setting, however there will also be other entertainment-type wrestling matches that feature some popular Japanese wrestlers.

Fitial and Takuya met on Saipan a couple of years ago, while the latter was on holiday.

Takuya was looking for potential fighters at the time to appear in his charity venture, and needless to say, it did not take long for Fitial's name to come up.

They became instant friends and their bond grew even closer during Fitial's first visit to the Land of the Rising Sun.



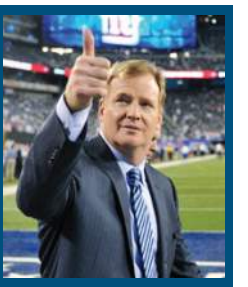
Hardy hits 2
homers to carry
Orioles over
Rays, 9-2

22

Saipan Tribune Sports

Goodell to meet
with 4 players in
bounty scandal

21



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Bittersweet Banzai win for Mieko

Mieko Carey, left, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger celebrate their finish in last Saturday's Banzai run.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mieko Carey successfully defended her women's division title in last Saturday's 7th POWERade Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half Marathon and Fun Run.

The 34-year-old triathlete completed the half marathon race in 2:11:50 to top the women's division anew. Last year, Carey clocked in at 150:46 to beat Natasha Kuckuck (2:14:30).



It was a bittersweet title defense for Carey, as the weekend race was her last as a Saipan resident. Carey, who crossed the finish line of the Saturday event with friend and co-winner Mamiko-Oshima Berger, moved to Guam last Sunday.

See BITTER on Page 23

PIC, Hoopaholics share early lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club's Bart Demapan rams into the defense of Ashley's Manolo Manalo during their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Pacific Islands Club and Hoopaholics/Oceanside Bar notched their second straight win to share the early lead in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo

Brotherhood Cup.

The Hoopaholics, who won its debut against the Sonics in Sunday's opener, played in the first game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tues-

day night and downed Hi-Five, 73-54. In the second match, PIC, which opened its campaign with an 83-64 triumph against the Archers, had another double-digit winning margin after thumping the debuting Ashley's, 95-80.

PIC had a jackrabbit start, survived Ashley's second-quarter storm, regained its bearings in the closing minutes of the third period, and then played a solid fourth quarter to nail the 15-point victory.

James Abuy canned two triples in the first period and finished the quarter with 8, while big man Brett Sutton did the damage inside for PIC, firing 9. Sutton, Brad Demapan, and Darwin Barbo manned the paint for PIC, making life difficult for the much shorter frontliners of Ashley's. The trio combined for 16 points and together with Wowie Abuel's deuce, PIC took a 28-14 lead at the end of the first period.

However, PIC lost the double-digit lead when it sat out four of its starters early in the second period. Ashley's went on to outgun PIC in the second, 27-14, with Manolo Manalo scoring 10 points to move his team within one at the break, 41-42.

Ashley's then had its first taste of the lead midway in the third, 51-49, off Marlon De Dios' layup, and it stretched the lead to as high as 5 before PIC recovered. Back-to-back triples from Abuy and one from Abuel in the last three minutes of the third allowed PIC to regain the upper hand, 66-63.

PIC never lost the lead from thereon, as the foul-troubled Sutton, who missed the entire third quarter, came back in the fourth fresh and teamed up anew with his fellow big men, while Niko Salem also contributed to the squad's cause. A Sutton inside basket off a flashy spin move brought PIC's lead to double digits, 83-73, entering the final three-minute mark of the game.

In the first game, the Hoopaholics held Hi-Five to 9 points in the third quarter to break the game wide open en route to its 19-point win.

Hi-Five was still in the game at halftime, behind by only three, 27-30, when its offense slowed

See PIC on Page 23

'The Pain' to appear in tonight's Fight Aid in Japan

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan mixed martial arts fighter Swain "The Pain" Cangco will be featured on the fight card of tonight's Fight Aid charity event held in Tokyo's Shinjuku Face venue.

The purpose of the event is to help support disadvantaged kids in need of dental care.

Cangco is traveling as a last second replacement for Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial who first appeared in the Fight Aid a couple years ago after being invited by promoter, Dr. Kai Takuya, who will also serve as Cangco's opponent.

Takuya invited Fitial back and requested him to recruit another fighter to be showcased in this year's episode and he chose Cangco to join him on the trip. However, the new enlistee ended up traveling

See PAIN on Page 23



Cangco

NMIFA receives donation, kicks off fall season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Two days before opening the 2012

NMIFA Youth Fall League, a businessman made a cash donation to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association to support the group's program.

Gyung Rhee of YK Corp. turned over the \$1,000 to NMIFA in a brief ceremony yesterday at the association's office at the TSL Plaza. Present to receive the donation were NMIFA president Jerry Tan, vice president Vickie Izuka, and technical director Johann Noetzel.

"Soccer is my first love. I used to play with a group of Koreans here when I was younger. Now,

I don't play anymore, but I love to see children playing the sport, so in my own little way, I hope I can help them participate in soccer program," Rhee said.

NMIFA officials thanked Rhee

and assured him that the donation will be put into good use.

"Mr. Rhee has been supporting CNMI soccer for the past several years. With NMIFA run-

See NMIFA on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gyung Rhee of YK Corp., third left, hands his \$1,000 donation to NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, during a turnover ceremony yesterday at the NMIFA office in TSL Plaza. Joining them are, from left, NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka and technical director Johann Noetzel.